FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Jordan Allows Palestinians To Depart for Lebanon

JN300725 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0650 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Dec (WAM) — Abu Dhabi press reports said today that the Jordanian authorities have responded to a request by the Palestinian leadership to allow some of the Palestinian troops stationed in Jordan to leave for Lebanon once they are needed to defend the Palestinian camps.

Citing informed Palestinian sources, *Al-Ittihad* said that some of these troops have actually left for Lebanon via Egypt or Iraq and that they most likely belong to the Fatah Movement's Al-Karamah camp forces. The paper added that Naim al-Khatib, commander of the Palestinian Badr forces in Jordan, refused to confirm or deny the departure of some of his troops for Lebanon.

The sources indicated that approximately 7,000 to 8,000 Palestinian fighters have arrived in Lebanon from the Arab countries since the beginning of recent battles.

FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH Views Syrian Sectarianism

JN261910 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Dec 86

[*Filastin Al-Thawrah* editorial: "The Era of the Palestinian Camps" — date not given]

[Text] The Arab battlefronts are closed to Palestinians and the Arab regimes have dropped the military option while Egypt is still shackled by the Camp David accords. Time is passing and the occupation is being entrenched, while the Arab regimes are divided, sectarian conflicts have forced their way into the Arab home, and in Syria a sectarian civil war has been raging for 10 years against a sectarian minority that usurped power in Syria in 1971 through the arch-sectarian, Hafiz al-Asad. The sectarian minority has toppled Syria's nationalist stand and policy and replaced them with a narrow sectarian stand and policy and with sectarian relations that revolve around a single central point: namely, to maintain the sect's power in the face of threats to it from the oppressed and Muslim majority. Of course, the absence of Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir as a national pan-Arab leader, the consequent shrinking of Egypt's pan-Arab role, and the subsequent serious apostasy by Al-Asad in making peace with the Zionist enemy at the expense of the masses of the Arab East, particularly the Palestinian people, have created favorable objective conditions for the intervention of Zionist and imperialist forces to split the unity of the masses of the Arab East because these forces lost the battle of colonialism and direct domination when the Arab masses wrested their national independence in the beginning of the 1950s and when 'Abd al-Nasir's nationalist revolution harnessed such independence to serve the Nasirite struggle to achieve Arab unity.

The mere struggle for Arab unity has been a terrifying nightmare for Zionism, which occupied Palestine; the imperialist and colonialist forces, which plunder the Arab homeland; and for the traditional Arab forces, which saw in 'Abd al-Nasir's call for unity a threat to their very existence and which opposed and fought against unity. These forces sought to strike at the mass struggle for unity, openly conspired to undermine the Syrian-Egyptian union, and strived to activate the sectarian forces which sensed that the call for unity threatened their special character. The imperialist forces sought to emphasize that special character and tried to turn it into a force hostile to Arab nationalism. 'Abd al-Nasir's sudden death and Al-Sadat's assumption of power in Egypt was a rare opportunity for all the forces hostile to Arab unity and nationalism to move to abort the Nasirite nationalist current, a truly Arab nationalist current, and to replace it with calls for regional and national isolation on the pretext that the call for Arab unity was inappropriate in the prevailing Arab circumstances.

One should note that the sectarian and anti-unionist forces, particularly in Syria, carried out their putsch in 1969 to control the Syrian Army. It is significant here to note that 'Abd al-Nasir had moved the pilot Hafiz al-Asad, together with a number of sectarian officers, to Egypt. There is no doubt that the banishment from Syria — and events later proved this — was the result of Al-Asad's role in building the sectarian military organization within the Syrian Armed Forces. Following the collapse of the union between Syria and Egypt, that military group returned to Syria to immediately begin to rebuild its secret sectarian organization and to seize power in subsequent years.

It may be very late now to ask the question — a question that worries many people who do not find a satisfying answer to it: What connection is there between the political development in the sectarian power in Syria and the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and Syria, and indeed with the Palestinian national role?

In his corrective coup in 1971, Al-Asad purged the ranks of the Army and Armed Forces of all opposition and rebuilt the Armed Forces on a sectarian basis without there being a need for a figure representing the majority so that he would become head of state. A few months after he appointed the doyen of teachers, Ahmad al-Khatib, as head of state, Al-Asad prayed in the Umayyad Mosque and succeeded in becoming president with a majority of 99.97 percent of the electors' votes.

With Al-Asad's presidency, the era of sectarian rule began in Syria. The most important characteristic of such a rule is the expulsion of [the representative of] the majority from the government and the army. The Air Force is the exclusive monopoly of the sect. All of the intelligence services are sectarian. All of the division commanders belong to that sect. Ninety percent of the cadets in military schools are members of the sect. The diplomatic corps is sectarian. Interstate foreign trade is sectarian, and consequently economic power is in the hands of that sect. These are the same characteristics which in Lebanon we call political Maronism, which has monopolized power, the army, and the economy in Lebanon since the proclamation of the Lebanese National Charter in 1943.

In Lebanon there is political Maronism and in Syria there is political 'Alawite Islam. There is no difference between the clash with political Maronism and the clash with political 'Alawite Islam, except that the reasons are more serious and more profound than the reasons that led to the clash between the Palestinian revolution and political Maronism in Lebanon. Political

Maronism clashed with 'Abd al-Nasir after the union between Syria and Egypt because it feared the Lebanese masses would act to merge Lebanon with the Syrian- Egyptian union. The question now is: Why does the Palestinian role and presence cause a clash between the Palestinians and the political 'Alawite Islam ruling Syria?

In contemporary life the Palestinians represent a national and pan-Arab aspiration to liberate Palestine. In general Arab entities stand in the way of such a national and pan-Arab aspiration because of their own regional calculations. When such Arab entities are in the grip of sectarian forces, the sectarians' fear of losing their power makes them ally themselves with the devil to stave off all threats to their power. It is well known that minorities in general call for the assistance of outside powers to protect their power and are willing to forge secret pacts and agreements with the national enemy to avoid the battle with him because they fear the results of such a battle. The first of such results is that the majority will move to regain power. The sectarians in power do not see the national enemy but are obsessed by the fear of its national [watani] and pan-Arab [qawmi] antithesis. The greatness of the Palestinian revolution is that it does, in word and deed, represent the antithesis of Zionism and the antithesis of sectarianism. The Palestinian capability is embodied by the impossibility of penetrating the Palestinian phenomena through their national antithesis or their pan-Arab antithesis. Zionsim is totally bankrupt in the face of the unity of Palestinian steadfastness within the occupied territory. Sectarianism is totally bankrupt outside the occupied territories in the face of the unity of the Palestinians in the battle for survival and the battle to defend the camps in Lebanon.

The Palestinians are united in their fight for survival in the face of the Zionist threat and the sectarian threat. This time as well political 'Alawite Islam was bankrupt in tying the Palestinians to the false belief because all of the Palestinians fought and joined the same trench under the command of the military committee for the defense of the camps to fight the most honorable battles of our national unity. The military committee is directly linked to the commander of the Palestinian revolution, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

In our present Arab situation, which we described at the beginning, Palestinians have no right to carry arms or to reorganize themselves. The sectarian force feels that a sectarian solution in Lebanon and Syria, if it is to be successful and complete by establishing sectarian statelets in Lebanon, requires the deportation of Palestinians from Lebanon to Jordan. To the sectarians and Zionists, Jordan is the alternative homeland for the Palestinians. The last battle began in Al-Rashidiyah because the south [of Lebanon] is the proposed sectarian canton so that it will separate Zionist Israel and 'Alawite Syria.

The gist of the situation now is that the Palestinian revolution, or more accurately the Palestinians in general in Lebanon and Syria, represent the genuine force against sectarian hegemony. This force must be destroyed. In fact, the thrid camps war is a war of the comprehensive destruction of the camps. The small camps in the Tyre, Al- Burghuliyah, Abu al-Aswad, and in the Al-Nabatiyah areas have actually been destroyed. Moreover, 3,000 Palestinians were deported. The UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency] says the number of those deported from Tyre was 13,290 Palestinians as of 1 December 1986.

In fact, the camp wars are essentially wars between a national, pan-Arab force, which is the Palestinian revolution, and sectarian forces trying to undermine the pan-Arab unity of Arab masses and also trying to establish, forever, the conditions of their sectarian authority on a firm base denying their national and pan-Arab antithesis which represents the majority. The Amal gangs represent the strike force of sectarian 'Alawite Islam and also of racist Zionism that is occupying Palestine. The incident in Maghdushah is a lesson. Syrian helicotpers carried the 1st Brigade forces commanded by Ibrahim Shahin from Al-Biqa' to Maghdushah to prevent Amal's collapse in (Al-Fayshir). Consequently, the Amal forces were reinforced. At 1100 on the same day, the enemy aircraft bombed the Palestinian forces positions in Maghdushah. The Israeli military editor of the newspaper *The Jerusalem Post* commented on the Israeli bombing. He said Israel regards the control of Maghdushah by the Palestinians as a serious turning point in the ongoing war in Lebanon that constitutes a threat to Israeli security. In view of Amal's weakness and its military defeat before the Palestinian fighters and also in view of the Syrian regime's failure to interfere and decide matters, a direct Israeli interference in favor of Amal was inevitable to prevent Amal's complete collapse. After this, we need not talk long about stripping Amal of the nationalist nature desptie actions by the ayatollahs of Iran who are involved in direct dealings with Israel.

A question which no longer needs an answer is that the Syrian 'Alawism is in turn an ally of the Iranian ayatollahs. This 'Alawism fully realizes that the Amal gangs are guarding the Israeli enemy borders and receiving Israeli aid just like Antoine Lahd and his predecessor Sa'd Haddad. This is a series of links which begins with Zionism and includes the Amal gangs, 'Alawite Islam, and the Iranian ayatollahs who harbor a grudge toward pan-Arabism, and who now try to destroy this pan-Arabism by their sectarian, fascist slogans.

Naturally, the exposure of this sectarian situation that has shameful relationships, connections, and interests does not ease the burdens of the Palestinian and Arab struggle. The defeat of 'Alawite Islam and its sectarian plan in Syrian and Lebanon is an urgent, major task today which should be carried out by the masses of the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian peoples because 'Alawite Islam is a cancer that destroys the entire Arab body. If the Arab political language is shameful in dealing with and covering up this danger, then this is primarily due to the fact that the traditional Arab force which controls entities does not want the Palestinian revolution to triumph and does not seek the victory of pan-Arabism. Moreover, this traditional Arab force is willing to accept the sectarian domination of Lebanon and Syria and also to accept the Zionist presence in Palestine to prevent the return of the pan-Arab awareness and awakening.

There is a flaw in the confrontation of the sectarian phenomenon within the nationalist ranks and even within the ranks of a number of Palestinian factions. Some progressive Arab forces adopt a naive stand on the current struggle against the 'Alawite sectarianism and, intentionally, without awarenss and occasion-

ally for the sake of narrow interests, confuse Syria's stance and its required role in confronting Zionism and imperialism and its current stance under the 'Alawite sectarian authority. Today Syria is not playing a pan-Arab role but a sectarian one which directly and objectively coincides with the Zionist-Israeli role. The stand on the Palestinian revolution will always be the only measure of determining whether the policy of this or that regime or force is correct. Our question is: Why do some Arab and even international progressive forces discard this measure and standard and replace it with ridiculous aspirations which will ultimately be regarded as the conspiracy of remaining silent on the sectarian role which fragments and destroys and which is being frankly implemented by Hafiz al-Asad's sectarian regime?

And now, has the camps war stopped after more than 80 days of siege and destruction? Has sectarianism achieved any of its objectives since the moment the siege of the Al-Rashidiyah refugee camp began? This war has not achieved its objectives despite all the destruction it has caused. The defeat of the sectarian-Zionist front in the battle of Maghdushah and its failure to storm Al-Rashidiyah and Shatila forced it to temporarily stop and rebuild. However, the battle against the refugee camps has not ceased because these camps constitute a strong, cohesive Palestinian force which harbors anti-sectarian and anti-Zionist objectives. They will always be a threat to the establishment of any sectarian structure in Syria and Lebanon, and threaten the usurping Zionists who bombarded Maghdushah by land, sea, and air to avert the defeat of the Amal gangs.

Despite all of the destruction and the massacres in the refugee camps, the Palestinians achieved their great victory — the unity which was embodied in the battlefield in all the refugee camps and under all circumstances. All of the Palestinians fought under one Palestinian banner, obtained their arms from the same source, and shared their bread and sparse water for which they dug deep under the refugee camps for their thirsty children. Since the objectives of any unity is to direct the Palestinian rifles to achieve the one aim, our unity is firm and deep. This constitutes a great danger to all our enemies. Undoubtedly, all the Palestinian factions which knew how to unify their ranks to defend the people, refugee camps, and the revolution have learned their lesson well. Unity is our sharpest weapon in the face of sectarians and Zionists. Greetings to the man of the revolution and refugee camps, the spirit of the revolution and refugee camps, the leader of the revolution, Yasir 'Arafat.

PLO Envoy on Husayn-Mubarak Talks, Coordination

JN291946 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1740 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Telephone interview with Rafiq al-Natshah, also known as Abu Shakir, PLO representative in Saudi Arabia, by Radio Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal — live or recorded]]

[Nawfal] Let us hear Rafiq al-Natshah's response to the statement by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid on the Jordanian readiness to begin dialogue with the PLO.

[Al-Natshah] Mr Nawfal, I would like to thank President Husni Mubarak for his eagerness to have coordination between the Jordanian Government and us continue. I would like to express my happiness at King Husayn's consent to resume coordination with the PLO. However, I hope everyone will understand that any coordination with the Jordanian Government or any Arab regime must take into consideration the PLO's political program and the PLO's principles, particularly its adherence to establishing an independent Palestinian state, achieving the right of self-determination, and participating in an international conference on an equal footing with other parties.

In view of these principles and our political program, we welcome any coordination with any Arab regime, particularly with the Jordanian Government with which we seek coordination on these clear, frank bases so we can continue serving our common cause.

[Nawfal] Has there been any change in the PLO's position regarding international resolutions, particularly Resolution 242?

[Al-Natshah] Our position on Resolution 242 is clear and unchanging and we cannot retreat from this position in any way. The Palestinian National Councils and the leaderships which emanated from them have affirmed that Resolution 242 cannot be a basis for a solution of the Palestinian problem because it ignores the natural, legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the PLO. Therefore we clearly and frankly announce that we cannot deal with Resolution 242 in any way unless it includes these rights.

[Nawfal] How can you foresee any rapprochement with Jordan if the basis of the differences was Resolution 242?

[Al-Natshah] Undoubtedly there are joint approaches between us and Jordan. Agreement to Resolution 242 was not discussed in any meeting on the leadership level. The PLO's stand on Resolution 242 should not surprise the Jordanian Government. The Palestine National Council which was held in Amman rejected this resolution for the reasons I have just outlined. The Jordanian Government is aware of the stand of the PLO and the Palestinian leadership on various levels on this resolution. Therefore there is nothing new in our stand. We regret to reiterate that we cannot deal with Resolution 242 as long as it ignores the Palestinian people's national rights.

[Nawfal] Do you think there is cause for optimism concerning dialogue with Jordan?

[Al-Natshah] Yes, there is a lot to be optimistic about. It is enough for us to overcome the adverse effects which might develop as a result of a lack of coordination. It is enough to cooperate to serve our people in the occupied territory and to support their steadfastness and to coordinate together to realize joint aims with Jordan — aims which the PNC decided upon and which the Jordanian Government knows. It never occurred to us or to the Jordanian Government that coordination meant abandoning our political program and principles. We have never heard such a thing and we cannot approve or accept such a thing.

KUWAIT

Al-Sabah: Oil To Be Sold at New OPEC Price 1 Feb

LD301146 Kuwait KUNA in English 0903 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 30 (KUNA) — Kuwait's Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Sabah said that Kuwait starts selling its petroleum at the new OPEC-fixed price of 16.67 U.S. dollars per barrel as from February 1st. He told local daily *Al-Qabas* today that he will not accept any compromise on the price which was set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) at its latest meeting ten days ago and the customers are free to accept or reject sales at that price.

The minister denied that this policy has been set in coordination with Saudi Arabia and Iran, noting that if the two states had also adopted that policy on prices, it is in conformit; with the OPEC decision. Al-Khalifa denied reports that Kuwait has contingened [as received] reducing production with OPEC member states' adherence with the decision of the price hike.

The minister reiterated Kuwait's abidance to decisions on prices and production and it will take the necessary action to stay in line with its production quota of about 948,000 barrels per day.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Speaks on Reduced Production Proposal

LD251813 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0830 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Dhahran, 25 December 1986 — The servant of the two holy places, King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz met with students and members of the teaching staff of King Fahd University in Dhahran in an open meeting last night during which he answered questions: [passage omitted]

[Question] Your majesty, the servant of the two holy places: OPEC agreed to decrease production and increase prices in its last meeting in Geneva. This represents a great victory of your wise policy in this field. However, the history of OPEC shows that some states lack commitment to abide by production quotas or to follow the agreed price. What will be your stand if some of these states do not commit themselves to the agreed prices and quotas?

[Fahd] It is known that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia relies, first, on God, and then on its oil production. I believe that the reduction of quotas was necessary because currently the world market has a 250-350 million barrel surplus over what is being produced. I believe that the OPEC member states this time have become fully convinced that reduced production is the only way to absorb the quantities now existing on the market.

We see now that oil prices have increased by a very good rate in Europe and America, and it is probable that they will go higher [words apparently missing] When Geneva's first conference ended and two committees were formed, one of these was a committee for price fixing, and the other for looking into quotas. Thus, the kingdom saw that there was no need for the committee for price fixing to delay, as the first Geneva conference should have looked into prices — the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as you know, was the one that proposed a price increase to $18 on the condition that all OPEC members commit themselves to it. This is not a final price, but a price minimum of $18. The feasibility of this is another question; one sometimes lacks the will or the capability to do it.

The OPEC meeting in Geneva has ended and two committees were appointed, as I mentioned earlier: A committee devoted to presenting proposals on prices to the secretary general of the organization prior to review by the oil ministers this month; and the committee for quotas, as it is set now. This was the subject of concern of the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the subject of my own personal concern. I have met with officials of some states that have specific viewpoints. We have studied the issue and have agreed on a specific level as being the minimum that we should reach — and this is $18 per barrel. There were other states that probably had viewpoints. We always respect all the different views presented to OPEC regardless of anything else.

I contacted many leaders of OPEC until we overcame the problems and it was agreed that the price fixing committee would decide before the meeting that has now ended.

The committee, which was chaired by Kuwait and had Libya and Ecuador as members, met in Ecuador and agreed that the price should be $18. As you might have noticed, prices did not fall as quickly between the first and last Geneva conference as they had previously. We all know how the prices fell before the first Geneva conference. They reached $11, $12 , and at some points even $10. However, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has avoided that situation by presenting its proposal. The Council of Ministers have issued a statement on this. As soon as he began his duties, Brother Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and natural resources, issued a statement on the specific issues. Consequently, we notice that the prices have fluctuated in the range of $13, $14, and $15.50.

Be sure that without the concerted efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the efforts by the other brother members of OPEC — and I must say this precisely — the price of oil would have fallen to its previous limit. Two years ago, oil production fell sharply. Eventually,even the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was producing 4.35 million barrels, whereas its production should have been 6 million barrels.

All of us know that previously our production was about 11 million barrels. Several comments were made that if production decreased, the market price would fall; effectively, production fell to 9 million and then stayed between 8 and 9 million barrels a day. After that it reached 6, then 4.35 million barrels a day. It fell sharply some time ago and this continued for a long time until the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia could not export — or more precisely sell — more than 2 million barrels a day or 2.2 or 2.3 million barrels, and these limits remained consistent. Thus, we ask why, for instance, a budget study was postponed several times. This was an attempt to find a way to fulfill the commitments of the government.

I personally took charge of that, and the cabinet issued a statement defining and expiaining the facts to OPEC members. What we indicated in the statement is that Saudi Arabia is committed to not increasing its production — we had been accused of saying one thing, yet increasing our production. But I totally assured the brothers that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia honors its word, as we have affirmed repeatdly, and as has been confirmed by the minister of oil and mineral resources, brother Hisham Nazir, in an official statement.

When we requested the convening of the tripartite committee, which includes Ecuador, Libya, and Kuwait, it met in Ecuador and adopted the opinion of the Kingdom, which it described as a proper opinion in everyone's interest. The committee was also convinced that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia truly desires to be the first one to sacrifice for the sake of returning prices to their normal level. This was confirmed during OPEC's recent meeting, which ended a few days ago. We have heard that the oil price has now exceeded $17.5 per barrel, or something of this sort.

The amount of oil now on the market is being insured by several companies and companies of shareholders, which might save up old stocks that they could have bought cheaply; they also have refineries that are selling refined substance one time, and non-refined substance another time. This quantity must be absorbed by the markets and consumers. Then production must increase.

This time things are organized, since OPEC members have agreed to produce within the limits agreed on by every state. I assure you that the the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was the first to comply with this and will continue to be fully committed to them. We would be the last member to contravene this decision. The important thing is that production increases should be in accordance with the market demand and not in accordance with collusion, because production collusion harms OPEC states. Oil producing countries, either OPEC's 13 states or the states that are not OPEC members, have now benefitted from what has happened.

According to what I have heard and according to what has been reported by international radios, non-OPEC members have reduced their prices as well because the interest which they seek to attain if they increase their prices is exactly the same interest that they can get in case of a decrease in their produciton. Therefore, it is hopeful that we will follow that right path, the path to which we are committed — 12 states are committed to it.

Commitment is a very important thing. I do not think — I do not even imagine — that there is a state that is trying to increase its production beyond this limit, because if any state does this what can stop the others from doing the same? Then chaos will occur as it did before. I believe that the chaos that prevailed in the past pressed home the idea that groundless production increases have this essential element to them.

There is nothing to prevent us from monitoring the situation on international markets, and if we find that what is present is stocked by several companies and that the market warrants an increase, I am saying that there is no objection to an increase, but this increase should include everybody and distribution should be an added increase based on OPEC quotas, which are quotas attributed to OPEC members. When things are organized, the increase will be gradual in accordance with market demand, in the belief that this increase concerns us since we are a producing state; we are also concerned that the consumer should not suffer.

As you know, during one of the past years oil prices went up to $34 per barrel, but Saudi Arabia stopped at the $28 per barrel limit. Despite the fact that many people, even those who are friendly toward the Kingdom, criticized us when we stopped at 28 dollars, what happened during the 1 or 2 months when our sales reached 11 million barrels at a time when the ones who were selling at $34 saw their production decline by half? People usually seek to buy from the state whose word is solid; and they said Saudi Arabia's word is good, and will not change.

The word of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will never change. We do not want to compete with anyone. We all know that Saudi Arabia has a big production capability since it is able to produce 15 million barrels daily, but this is not our way, and it will never be in any case. Our main concern is based on OPEC solidarity. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will absolutely never increase its production unless the markets warrant an increase in production for the sake of the consumer, and that is a matter which is up to OPEC.

In this case, an OPEC meeting should take place and accordingly, quotas should be fairly distributed among the states that can produce more. I believe that this is what will happen, God willing. If a state breaches this undertaking to take advantage of the opportunity, one cannot carry one barrel of oil in one's pocket; and every barrel sold is known. Since we know very well the details of matters, we will know how much every state produces daily. Even if it increases its production by 10 barrels, we will know that this is an increase, where does this increase go? Does it sell it to companies? Do companies buy it publicly?

I am convinced that thing are going in the right direction, and that there is conviction among OPEC members, and that God willing, we will be always in the forefront. It is true that we have reduced our production from 4.35 millionbarrels to approximately 4.15 million barrels or less; but the decrease was the sake of interest. What does our production reduction mean, in line with the rest of our brothers? This means that instead of selling one barrel at $14 we will sell at $18 or $19. I believe that is more beneficial than (?higher production).

You know that the consumer and those who own refineries are interested in buying at cheaper prices, but what happened at the recent Geneva meeting is a clear, plain, and understandable thing. The agreement reached by OPEC states is an agreement based on experience, expertise, and reality. At the time when we are hoping to pursue this path I would like to confirm what I have previously stated: That Saudi Arabia will be first and last one committed, and no fault will come from it, God willing.

[Question] The Kingdom is working toward fixing prices at about $18. What is the effect of this on production? What is the extent of cooperation of producing states outside OPEC, particularly Britain?

[Fahd] This is a good question. Anyway, I mentioned that $18 is not the maximum ceiling, but it is not less than $18. If there is a demand in the markets for a production increase, it should be made known that there is such demand. For example: 1 million, 2 million, 3 million, 4 or 5 million barrels. Then they should be distributed on a quota basis among OPEC member-states. Despite the fact that I do not know the opinion of non-OPEC members, I have heard on the news today that they are all prepared, out of their own choice, to reduce their production until it is compatible with OPEC's.

This means that the matter has become amicable, and that there is an understanding between the thirteen states of OPEC and non-OPEC producing states. According to what I have heard from the Saudi oil minister, Saudi oil minister, some ministers have been entrusted with contacting states that are non-OPEC members to explain things in a detailed and satisfactory way to them, because it is in our mutual interest for us and other non-OPEC states should follow the same line even if these countries are not OPEC members.

[Question] A large mineral wealth has been discovered in the Kingdom which could constitute important sources for income and require preliminary investment in the infrastructure so that they can have a beneficial yield. Is there any intention to develop this important sector and utilize its wealth for the good of the homeland and the citizens?

[Fahd] It has always been and continues to be the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's intention to have an additional source of income other than oil to rely upon after God. According to my information, we have embarked on prospection for precious metals with which the Saudi Arabian Kingdom is rich, thanks be to God and his generosity. Though, I imagine, the prospections carried out so far have only been exploratory, we are greatly interested in discovering the wealth hidden in our country, be they gold, silver, uranium, or iron, or any other metals needed by world markets.

As is known, we have at Jubayl and Yanbu' numerous establishments including petrochemical ones... [SPA ellipses] and although large sums have been spent on these factories, I am able to say that these factories have begun to produce and make contacts with countries which need their products.

The marketing of these factory products rely on two kinds of income: One, to sell their product in exchange for any of the hard currencies which are known to have market values such as the sterling, dollar, mark, or franc, and, two, to receive goods you need from the country which your product is sold to. The EEC did not impose duties in the past on some of the petrochemical products exported by us. However, I regret to hear that they have now imposed duties on them. Therefore, I will discuss this matter with those countries. If they are determined to impose additional customs duties, we have no option but to tell them that this will force us to impose the same increase. We in the kingdom are not harmed by an increase or rise in taxation imposed on products exported to those coutnries, but that will not prevent us from adopting the principle of reciprocation and imposing a similar additional duty on what ever we import from them. This means that we will treat anyone in the same way they treat us. However, I hope that we will not come to this. I always lean toward discussing every important matter before decisions are made quickly, making it difficult to retreat. [passage omitted]

For any problem the Kingdom encounters with any country, American, European or Arab, we must employ good will. If we find that these doors open to us, we will open more doors; but if we find these doors slammed in our faces, we are not forced to do anything — we will look for many ways [as heard]. We have many friends in Europe and in all countries of the world ... [SPA ellipses] there are no dangers to us, God willing... [SPA ellipses] would like to affirm to brothers that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia pursues a policy of true liberty and democracy, and it is not tied to any treaties or commitments to anyone; nor will it submit to anyone but God; to no one else will it submit.

[Question] Your Majesty, the custodian of the two holy places: We are close to the new budget a fact which announces additional steps in order to activate the economic cycle in the Kingdom. Is there any good news you can bring to the citizens?

[Fahd] In realtiy, we have suffered a lot during the past 2 years due to the sharp fall of oil prices; however, we are always eager that your country will not be in debt to or a creditor to anybody except God Almighty. I believe that it is wise that we avoid borrowing from banks or international institutions as much as we can instead of [as heard] putting pressure on ourselves in our expenditures for a year or so. If you look around you, O little brothers, you will see that the development which has taken place in your homeland from 15 years ago up until now is a development that could need 150 years. However, regarding the fact that we live this development, we do not perceive it quickly and easily.

Be definitely sure that we will try as much as we can for the next budget to be at an excellent level; it is possible that there will be less expenditures than in the previous budget. This is possible, and we must not expect that it will be less than the previous budget, because the times we went through were hard; and I believe that if a state other than the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia went through those times, it would have found itself in a very big problem. I pray to God that we will not encounter any crisis that will make the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia go backward. [passage omitted]

Fahd: New Budget 'Lower' Than Previous Years

LD291911 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1635 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 29 Dec (SPA) — This afternoon, Monday 29 December, the custodian of the two holy places, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, presided over a session of the Council of Ministers. The session opened with Koranic recitations, then the Servant of the Two Holy Places, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, made the following spontaneous speech to his brothers and sons, the citizens, on the ratification of the state budget for the new fiscal year.

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate;

Praise be to God and prayers be upon the most honorable of His Messengers — our Prophet Muhammad — may God's prayers be upon him;

Brother citizens; this year many of you may have noticed differences in the budget, either as regards its postponement or as regards the arrangement of some of its clauses due to reasons and circumstances of which citizens are fully aware.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has passed through circumstances relating to oil production and the extreme reductions that took place in this connection. Perhaps this needs no more explanation than what the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has already provided in official statements or what has already been published by newspapers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and uttered by officials who are concerned with such matters.

I can state that your government has tried, praise be to God, during these difficult circumstances to match the expectations of citizens in all matters and has tried not to burden itself with any foreign or local loans. I think that this is a most prominent achievement, of which Saudi Arabia can be proud, as it was able somehow to deal with the situation as best as possible.

When the details of the budget are issued the citizens will realize that there is a reduction compared to last year. However, this reduction does not by any means affect the general framework of the budget. We hope that in the middle of next year, God willing, the price of oil will be better than it is now. It is also hoped that it will rise to $17 or more, but this depends on the current solidarity among the OPEC countries.

In my opinion, Saudi Arabia is not the only country which wantsthis solidarity; OPEC members are desire it more than Saudi Arabia because it is in the interest of everyone. The countries which are not OPEC members, according to their press and radio news reports, are happy about the results reached by OPEC regarding reducing production.

Saudi Arabia is the first country to have tried and succeeded in reducing its production in accordance with the communiques that have been issued in the past 2 months. These communiques have confirmed during all this time that Saudi Arabia has agreed to reduce production and that it will abide by this decision until the situation improves; we hope it will improve so as to incrrease the market demand for more OPEC oil production. The revenues of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia might then be in a different situation.

It is known that Saudi Arabia previously produced at most about 11 million barrels per day, 10 or 9 million barrels. The figure then went down to 6 million and later to 4.35 million barrels. This figure has now slightly fallen. Therefore, we hope that Saudi citizens will accept this budget, which is slightly lower than previous years. However, we must not forget that the state has undertaken major projects in all sectors in past years.

This does not mean that we can say that the state has completed all its development projects or has met the citizens' need for roads, electricity, water or any other utilities, the most important of which are education and health and so on, but the state is always endeavoring to make citizens happy.

I would like to point out that the benefits allocated to citizens, such as huge allowances to subsidize food, health and fodder, have witnessed no change, thank God. The same thing applies to oil and oil derivatives.

My brother cabinet members, and primarily His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, have managed as best they could to draw up this budget irrespective of some shortcomings that it may contain. I believe that the details, which will be announced on Wednesday, God willing, will be satisfactory to the citizens. In addition to this, the current projects included in the budget amount to 144 billion Riyals. Naturally, it is known that it will not be possible to spend this sum during this year, but 50 billion riyals could be spent this year, and this a big blessing. The state was also interested, and I was personally interested, in the projects of the Two Holy Places. These projects will be at the forefront of the projects on which money will be spent this year.

I ask God to assist us all and help us to work for the sake of Islam and Muslims and to be rightfully guided by Islam. As long as we stick to our Islamic faith there is nothing to fear. Undoubtedly, the duties of the citizen in the country are enormous duties because God has honored him to be at the service of the Two Holy Places. Finally, I hope that we will be able to meet at this time every year for the welfare of our religion and life. Thank you.

Following the meeting, Information Minister, 'Ali al-Sha'ir told news agency, radio and television correspondents that the cabinet learned of the final form of the country's general budget from an explanatory memorandum presented to the cabinet by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy concerning the allocations of the budget for the next fiscal year. After discussing the new developments which occurred regarding the budget, the cabinet approved it and the allocations of its provisions, sections and general schedules. Minister al-Sha'ir concluded his statement by saying: Thus, the budget will be announced, God Willing, through the media next Wednesday, 31 December 1986. [passage omitted]

Petroleum Minister Receives PDRY Deputy Premier

LD291347 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1154 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Dec (SPA) — Hisham Muhyi al-Din Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting planning minister, received today at the Oil Ministry Salih Abu Bakr Ibn Husaynin, PDRY deputy prime minister and minister of energy and minerals. During the meeting, participants from both sides examined bilateral issues.

YAR

President Salih Interviewed on Yemeni Unity

JN280826 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Dec 86

["Text" of interview with YAR President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih by Kuwaiti magazine *Al-Majalis* editor in chief published in its 27 December issue; date and place not given — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [*Al-Majalis*] We thank you the brother president for

granting us this opportunity to meet with him. On behalf of our esteemed readers, we ask President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih: What are your most prominent concerns during this important stage in the history of fraternal Yemen?

[Salih] [Passage omitted] Among the strategic objectives which will continue to be one of our major concerns is Yemeni unity. We and the sons of our people in the southern part struggle to attain this great objective. Unity means strength for Yemen as well as pride and dignity for Yemen. Yemeni unity will have a positive impact on Arab unity. We view Yemeni unity as the cornerstone. God willing, and thanks to all the nationalist efforts our people are exerting and the support of all the nationalist and Arab forces which seek peace, good, and amity this unity will be attained

[*Al-Majalis*] What have these efforts achieved and did the incidents which recently took place in the southern part have an impact on efforts under way for attaining unity?

[Salih] We have achieved noticeable progress toward unity, particularly with respect to completing the draft project on a unity state constitution, which is considered an advanced step toward unity. The January incidents, which we view as being a domestic affair of our brothers, have undoubtedly had a negative impact on our Yemeni people in the two parts of the homeland.

We have been working to contain this problem from the moment it took place and to solve it among the brothers in the southern part through peaceful, fraternal, and democratic means to secure the safety of our sons in the southern part and the nonrecurrence of these incidents which resulted in great losses. We hope these incidents will not recur. As Yemenis, we will be able to overcome this problem.

[*Al-Majalis*] Your Excellency, in addition to your domestic concerns with respect to the development process, there are great Arab concerns which Your Excellency realizes very well. In your opinion, what are the ways to attain a minimum level of Arab solidarity through which some kind of an Arab consensus may be reached on many issues to avoid the current dismemberment of Arab ranks?

[Salih] One cannot but express regret over the current state of afairs. However, no matter how deep Arab differences may become, a time will inevitably come when the unity of Arab ranks will be restored. Differences occur between the memebrs of the same family on family affairs. Differences do not mean this is the end. We are optimistic and belive Arab solidarity will be restored. [Passage omitted]

[*Al-Majalis*] What about the camps war currently taking place in Lebanon?

[Salih] We regret this fighting between the Lebanese and Palestinian brothers which only serves the Arab nation's enemies. Israel is the only party which benefits from this fighting. However, we hope our brothers in Lebanon, in the Amal Movement, and in the PLO will understand this and solve the problem through understanding and fraternal dialogue. Neither the Amal movement nor our Palestinian brothers have an interest in prolonging this destructive conflict.

[*Al-Majalis*] Your Excellency, do you have a specific plan for settling the Lebanese crisis from all its aspects following the failure of all efforts?

[Salih] We have explained more than once that although the Arab group and the international community have a responsibility to assist the Lebanese brothers in settling their crisis and in restoring Lebanon's freedom, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence, the primary responsibility rests on the shoulders of the Lebanese thmselves who must solve their problems.

[*Al-Majalis*] Your Excellency, the YAR's support for the Palestinian cause, and specifically for the PLO, is evident. This support is based on a pan-Arab premise. There are attempts now to restore unity to Palestinian organizations. Your Excellency, what means should be adopted in your opinion to achieve this objective?

[Salih] We are exerting sincere efforts with all PLO factions to restore unity to the PLO because the PLO has no interest in prolonging this division. The PLO's unity constitutes a strength for the Palestinian revolution. We support the PLO and we will continue to contribute to all efforts for reuniting it.

[*Al-Majalis*] Many admit Egypt's departure from Arab ranks has weakened Arab stands in confronting enemies and has also weakened Egypt, in your opinion, how can Egyt return to the Arab fold?

[Salih] There is no doubt Egypt's weakness results in the Arab nation's weakness. The Egyptian people are a force to be reckoned with. Egypt's return to the Arab nation will be a factor of strength for the Arab nation in view of its strategic importance. We support Egypt's return within a framework acceptable to the Arab group. Egypt also cannot live without the Arab nation. [Passage omitted]

[*Al-Majalis*] What is Your Excellency's opinion of the recent U.S. arms deal with Tehran?

[Salih] It is like pouring fuel on the fire.

[*Al-Majalis*] Your Excellency, in addition to the Arab differences in the Arab East, there are differences, too, in the Arab Maghreb. In view of the close relationship between Your Excellency and President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, is it possible that you could carry out a role to approximate viewpoints between Libya and its neighbors?

[Salih] If we are asked to do so. We are always ready to do so if asked by any brother whether in the Arab East or the Arab Maghreb. We will spare no efforts. However, we believe there are many Arab leaders who are also qualified to undertake such efforts. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Interviewed on Future by AL-AHRAM
NC250740 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has said that Egypt will emerge from its economic crisis stronger than before. He added that he is not trying to paint a rosy picture, that the road will not be easy, but there is real reason for optimism. The president made these remarks in an interview with *Al-Ahram* to mark the new year. The interview will appear in tomorrow's edition.

President Mubarak told *Al-Ahram* that the most important issue for the Egyptian public is the economic problem. Great nations, he said, should learn from their ordeals. Egypt has not succumbed to this crisis; it fought the storm, Mubarak said, with faith and hard work. Next year will be better than this one, the president asserted, noting that the Egyptian economy has elements of strength, endurance, and potential.

Explaining his belief that next year will be better, Mubarak cited the following points:

1. The Egyptian people have proven their willingness to share responsibility in confronting the economic crisis. They have accepted the economic and financial reform policies. We have reduced imports of luxury goods, as well as those goods produced domestically in quantities sufficient for local market needs. We have also reduced unnecessary public expenditure, at the same time paying greater attention to the issue of social justice.
2. We are trying to improve our standing internationally, with both East and West, as much as possible. We are also trying to cultivate personal ties with leaders of all countries in every way that could help Egypt's economic efforts and raise our standard of living. I think it is now clear to everyone that the world is sympathetic to our problems and has shown real understanding of the principle of debt rescheduling. Rescheduling will help us utilize our resources more fully in terms of development.

The time will come, President Mubarak said, when I will report on the policies of major countries — European and Arab brother countries — that is, their contribution to Egypt's efforts to fight the economic crisis. I reiterate that Egypt will emerge from this crisis revitalized, and I know that all these countries believe that and base their calculations on this assumption.
3. Many new factories are now beginning operation, producing cement, building iron rods, and construction material. Land is also being rapidly reclaimed.
4. We are greatly stressing local industrialization.
5. We have issued clear instructions concerning borrowing. No loans are to be made before it is verified that the project in question will be able to pay off the debts. The state will no longer borrow unless it is convinced that this is necessary to meet its responsibility to the economy or the people. There are also indications that the price of oil is rising
6. We can strengthen our economy only by relying on our local resources and our foreign exchange revenue. This is why I am concentrating on exports, with particular emphasis on the need for both the public and private sectors to produce competitive export goods. A certain level of exports should be attained every year. As for obstacles to exports, I believe the government should interfere in the export process only in an encouraging and supportive way. Aside from that, it should remain completely neutral.
7. During the Second 5-year Plan, beginning next July, we will concentrate on productive projects, utilizing idle capacity, creating new jobs for the young, and increasing production.
8. We are fighting continuously to eliminate red tape, develop the public sector, attract investment, and eliminate obstacles facing Egyptian, Arab, and foreign investors. We are also trying to build confidence and strengthen internal stability.

In his interview with *Al-Ahram*, the president said: All this justifies my optimism about emerging from the economic crisis. In addition to the strengths I have noted, there is an essential factor we must not forget: Egyptian military power, whose defensive capability we are trying very hard to augment. I say this openly, because a strong and effective state gains the respect of its neighbors. It also supports and consolidates the strength of its friends. And I will say nothing more.

The president continued: I hope my words will not be misconstrued, that I am painting a rosy picture of the future, or that the road will be easy. Overcoming the economic crisis may take 2 or 3 years. However, I reiterate that the coming year will be better than the last. Surviving the economic crisis requires the worke and the sweat of every Egyptian citizen. I have often said that the world helps only those who help themselves.

On the situation in the Arab world, President Mubarak said: I wish the Arabs would unite their views, because this would provide the basic answer to the current dilemma. I hope the Islamic conference to be held in Kuwait next month will be an opportunity for the Arab nation to rally around a unified view of Arab and Islamic interests.

As for our relations with Arab countries, the president added, they are more than good, except for a minority which is hostile to us for one unacceptable reason or another. I repeat: No region in the world has endured the problems and wars we are facing. We must confront these problems and prevent their eroding Arab capabilities and energies. This division and disunion will make us easy prey for our enemies, and no Arab country will escape this destiny.

As for Egypt's relations with foreign countries, the president said: Egypt is linked with the United States through excellent relations. Differences of views and stands on certain matters do not spoil these relations. Our relations with the other superpower, the Soviet Union, are proceeding for the best. We also expect further development in our relations with Western European countries which fully understand our position. These are the countries which stood by us during our economic crisis and in our neogtiations with international bodies, such as the IMF and IBRD. They are the ones which support the Egyptian concept that stability and economic and financial reform can be made only through comprehensive economic and social development.

Mubarak Views Jordan Meeting as 'Successful'

NC291554 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak stated following his return to Cairo from Jordan this afternoon that his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn in Aqaba was successful. He said that during this meeting discussions dealt with Egyptian-Jordanian relations, which he described as excellent. The president noted that they also discussed pending political issues and the future of the peace process in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Talks

NC291433 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA) — Following President Mubarak's return to Cairo, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that the talks in Aqaba between the president and His Majesty King Husayn were quite lengthy. The same was true of the discussions between the Egyptian and Jordanian delegations, which were attended by Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Jordanian Court and Dr 'Abd al-Majid, who represented Egypt.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that the talks centered on bilateral ties. He described the bonds between Egypt and Jordan as excellent, and as a paradigm of relations between two fraternal Arab states. He expressed hope that other Arab countries will follow Jordan's example.

Turning to international issues, he explained that the views of the two countries are similar. He asserted that Egypt's major role here is reflected in its desire to keep the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue going. The foreign minister remarked that this is an important goal. He added: I can say that we sensed a great willingness on Jordan's part in this matter, and that this is the clear policy being expressed.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid termed President Mubarak's visit to Jordan a complete success. He point out that the talks covered those issues that will be raised at the ICO conference, which is due to open in Kuwait late in January.

When asked if Egypt and Jordan had formed a united front for the conference, Dr 'Abd al-Majid replied: We cannot speak of a front. However, there has been continuous coordination and consultation between us, as well as an exchange of information at the highest levels.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid declared: We agreed not to let the peace process be frozen as it is. He noted that consultations are under way, and that some very important pieces of data are flowing back and forth. This is being done in connection with the peace process.

The foreign minister expressed hope that some practical steps will be taken in this area at the start of 1987.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that as far as Palestinian representation at the international conference is concerned, nothing has been agreed upon thus far. He asserted that the Palestinians themselves have the right to make any decision on this.

Ministry Calls for Withdrawal From Afghanistan

NC271542 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued the following statement on the 7th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan:

The Arab Republic of Egypt affirms its support for the Muslim Afghan people in their struggle for liberation, an end to foreign intervention, and the attainment of sovereignty over their own land.

Egypt joins Islamic states, the nonaligned countries, and all peaceloving nations in reiterating the urgent need to reach a settlement of the Afghan issue that will guarantee a speedy and full withdrawal of all foreign forces from Afghanistan, so that the brotherly Afghan people may regain their freedom and stability and continue their march, together with all the nonaligned countries and the Islamic world.

Ghali Says PLO-Jordan 'Alliance' Sought

NC291736 Cairo MENA in English 1418 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Dakar, Dec 29 (MENA) — Egypt is trying to overcome problems and difficulties impeding the holding of an international conference for peace in the Middle East, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butros Ghali said here today.

Egypt is also trying to convince the PLO to accept the UN Resolution No 242 and to set up an alliance with Jordan, Ghali added.

In statement to the Senegalese paper *Le Soleil*, Ghali termed the Egyptian-Arab relations as very satisfactory, adding the U.S.-Egyptian friendly and cooperation ties will not rpt not turn Egypt to an ally to the U.S., affirming Egypt's commitment to the non-alignment policy.

Egypt supports the efforts being exerted by the world community to achieve an overall solution for the restoring of peace and national reconciliation in Lebanon, Dr. Ghali said.

He pointed out that Egypt is holding contacts with different Lebanese factions to reach partial or temporary solutions to stop the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, the Egyptian minister said. [passage omitted]

Returns From Tour

NC262245 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Dec (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo from Lusaka tonight at the end of a 2-week African tour that included stops in Congo,

Angola, and Zambia. He noted that he is carrying messages for President Husni Mubarak from six African presidents, and will submit a report to the president on the results of his trip. [passage omitted]

Ghali added that his talks with African leaders and officials focused on the continent's economic problems, the confrontation with South Africa, Namibian independence, and bilateral relations.

Commenting on Libya's acts of aggression in northern Chad, Dr Ghali reiterated Egypt's denunciation of such behavior. He also highlighted Egypt's support for the Chadian Government, and for that country's territorial integrity and defense of its international borders. He pointed out tat he explained this position at a number of news conferences.

Kuwaiti Amir's Adviser Meets President
NC300836 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd al-Rahman Salim al-'Atiqi, adviser at the court of the Kuwaiti amir, left Cairo en route to his own country last night after a visit of several hours to Egypt. He was received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak during his stay.

Communique No 2,507 on 28-29 Dec Combat

JN291737 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Communique No 2,507 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 29 December 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces have continued their combat activities. The results of these activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. A brave force from our units in the II Army Corps central sector raided enemy positions opposite them, destroying a machine gun and killing those manning it. Our force returned safely to base.

The soldiers of the II Army Corps also confronted an enemy group in another area of the same sector and killed two enemy personnel. The remnants of the enemy group fled, chased by the fire of our powerful artillery. A mortar, an ammunition depot, and an infantry position were also destroyed in other areas of the same sector.

2. An enemy group tried to approach our units' positions in the east of Al-Basrah sector, but the soldiers of the III Army Corps confronted them, killing or wounding several personnel and capturing two enemy personnel. Five infantry positions were destroyed, a number of scoundreal Khomeyniites were killed, one boat was destroyed and sunk, one vehicle was destroyed and another damaged, three other enemy personnel were killed, one machine gun was destroyed with those manning it killed, and two ammunition depots were destroyed in the same sector.

3. The hero VII Army Corps units carried out intensive shelling of enemy concentrations opposite them, scoring accurate and effective hits, inflicting new losses on the Khomeyniites, and destroying and sinking a boat.

4. One firing position was destroyed and one enemy soldier was killed and another wounded in the VI Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. Escaping the tyrant group in Iran, a number of Iranian soldiers sought refuge at our forward positions on the battlefront and were safely evacuated to the rear.

6. The Tehran rulers, the agents of Zionism, shelled residential areas in Basra with long-range artillery, wounding two children.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 29 December 1986

Air Force Carried Out 31,144 Missions in 1986

JN301042 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA) — The Iraqi Air Force has carried out 31,144 combat missions against Iranian military installations and positions in 1986. Statistics published here today shows an increase of 7,143 missions this year as compared with last year.

The Iraqi planes brought comprehensive destruction to Khark Island through 90 raids on the island's installations and facilities. They also hit 123 maritime targets near the Iranian coasts. The Iraqi Air Force has also successfuly accomplished the first stage of the new plan of the huge Air Force action which is aimed at the quick destruction of the Iranian regime's economic and military pillars.

UN Informed of Iranian Residential Shelling

JN300817 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] United Nations, 30 Dec (INA) — Iraq has once again informed the United Nations and the UN Security Council about the Iranian regime's continuous shelling of residential areas in Iraq.

A message delivered to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and distributed to the UN Security Council member states last night by Iraq's acting UN representative explained that Iranian planes have recently bombed residential areas in Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate and that 5 civilians were martyred and 25 others wounded.

The message added that the city of Khanaqin was also exposed to shelling from Iranian long-range artillery in which 7 civilians were martyred, including a woman and 4 children; 83 persons wounded, including 50 children; and a school, 28 shops, and 8 houses destroyed.

'Aziz Receives Afghan Foreign Ministry Official

JN292054 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has received (Marrur Bursh), Afghan Foreign Ministry under secretary. During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two friendly countries, the situation in the region, and issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by Wisam al-Zahhawi, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary; the head of the organizations department; the head of the second international department; the head of the Middle East and Africa Department of the Afghan Foreign Ministry; and the Afghan charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Jordanian-Iraqi Transport Company Begins Meetings

JN281736 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad — The meetings of the Board of Directors of the Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport Company began in Baghdad today under Jordanian Transportation Minister Ahmad Dakhqan and Iraqi Transport and Communications Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar al-Asadi.

In a statement to a PETRA correspondent in Baghdad, the Iraqi transport minister said that during the company's 2-day meetings, the two sides will review the company's achievements, approve its budget for next year, and approve the company's

operational plan for 1987. The Iraqi transport minister said that fraternal Egypt was invited to join the company, pointing out that an Egyptian delegation visited the city of Aqaba earlier and studied the company's situation with the objective of joining it.

Transportation Minister Ahmad Dakhqan arrived in Baghdad last night heading a delegation to attend the meetings of the Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport Company.
In a statement to a PETRA correspondent upon arrival in Baghdad, he said that he will discuss with his Iraqi counterpart ways to promote the existing cooperation between the two countries in the field of transportation. He added: In implementation of the agreement which was signed by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the iraqi first deputy prime minister at the end of the meetings of the Jordanian-Iraqi higher joint committee which were recently held in Baghdad, I will discuss with the Iraqi officials issues related to importing goods via Aqaba Port. He expressed hope that during his visit he would sign new agreements with the Iraqi brothers in the field of transportation.

Jordan's Dakhqan Arrives
JN281932 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Baghdad — Transportation Minister Ahmad Dakhqan met with Hasan 'Ali, Iraqi RCC member and trade minister, in Baghdad today in the presence of Iraqi Transport and Communications Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar al-Asadi. During the meeting, they reviewed the developed relations between the two fraternal countries. Dakhqan also met with the Iraqi transport and communications minister in the presence of the delegation accompanying Dakhqan. During the meeting, they discussed ways to bolster cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Dakhqan arrived in Baghdad yesterday leading a Jordanian delegation to attend the meetings of the Board of Directors of the Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport Company, which began in Baghdad today.

Transportation Agreement Signed
JN291845 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Iraq and Jordan have signed the joint minutes for cooperation in the field of land transportation between the two fraternal countries. They were signed on the Iraqi side by Transportation and Communications Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar al-Asadi and signed on the Jordanian side by Jordanian Transportation Minister Ahmad Dakhqan. The two ministers exchanged speeches expresing the growing relations between the two fraternal countries. The ceremony was attended by the Iraqi Transportation and Communications Ministry under secretary, the Jordanian Transportation Ministry under secretary, and members of both delegations.

National Assembly Endorses Foreign Trade Plan
JN291721 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] During its session today under Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker, the National Assembly endorsed the foreign trade plan for 1987. Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister who attended the session, reviewed the bases adopted by the Ministry of Trade in preparing the plan as well as the goals it is seeking to achieve in both the export and import fields.

The trade minister affirmed the plan will serve the goals of the Ba'th party, the revolution, and the masses in light of leader President Saddam Husayn's instructions to maintain the availability of consumer goods and commodities for citizens, pointing out the ministry will exert more efforts to benefit from Iraq's economic, trade, and technical relations with the world to promote trade in the service of the goals of the foreign trade plan in terms of export and import and to reinforce the economic and combat capabilities of our people and brave army. Hasan 'Ali also said the plan was prepared in light of the continuation of the aggressive war against our people.

Afterwards, the trade minister answered questions by National Assembly members who expressed reservations about the goals of the plan in terms of import and export, the bases pursued in preparing the plan, and commodities affecting citizens' lives. The session was attended by Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj, Finance Minister Hisham Hasan Tawfiq, and a number of Ministry of Trade officials.

President Mubarak Cables Thanks to King Husayn

JN291350 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] King Husayn received a cable from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, as his plane was leaving Jordanian airspace, expressing thanks and gratitude for the hospitality and sincere sentiments with which he was greeted during his visit to Jordan. The president said a spirit of complete friendship and frankness characterized the talks with King Husayn at this serious juncture of the Arab nation's history. Mubarak said the talks had reconfirmed the firm and constructive stands taken by the leaderships of the two friendly countries on regional security and stability in the interest of the welfare and prosperity of the people of the area and enhanced Arab solidarity. President Mubarak expressed his best wishes to King Husayn.

Cabinet Allocates 37,000 Dinars for Camps

JN292121 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] The Council of Ministers has approved a proposal made by the minister for occupied territories' affairs to allocate 37,000 dinars for a number of projects for refugee and emigrant camps in various parts of the kingdom. Under the approval, 10,000 dinars will be spent on paving and asphalting roads in the Suf camp for emigrants; 12,000 dinars for paving and asphalting roads in the Jarash camp; 1,500 dinars from the Occupied Territories Affairs Ministry to establish a library for the youth club in the Prince Hasan camp, which will cost approximately 6,000 dinars; 2,500 dinars for establishing a center for the handicapped in the martyr 'Azmi al-Mufti camp, in addition to approximately 10,000 dinars to accommodate 55 handicapped in the camp; and 6,000 dinars for lighting the streets of the Martyr 'Azmi al-Mufti and Jarash camps.

In accordance with the approval, 3,000 dinars will be spent on building a mosque in the Jarash camp, which will cost about 12,000 dinars; 2,000 dinars on supporting the Family Care Society and the poor and needy families in the centers of the emigrants camps; 27,000 dinars on maintenance works on such centers in the Hittin camp; and 500 dinars on supporting the branches of the Arab fund society for child care in the camps. The Council of Ministers also agreed to buy 7,000 tons of flour to be distributed to the emigrants through the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Supply.

Birri Announces Amal Cease-Fire 29 Dec

JN291857 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] At a news conference this afternoon, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said that despite the fact that the Al-Rashidiyah camp is not in need of foodstuffs, despite the siege that is clamped on the south and the cutoff of water and electricity to Tyre, and in view of the Syrian position and Iran's desire, the Amal Movement announces its commitment to the following points as a gift to the Palestinians on the new year:

1. Complete adherence to a cease-fire throughout Lebanon effective immediately.

2. No solution to the conflict between Amal and the Palestinians unless the Iranian plan is implemented.

3. The Amal leadership in Beirut and the south will be asked to take measures to introduce foodstuffs and medicine into the camps and to evacuate the wounded to prove Amal's good intentions.

Birri accused the Palestinians of violating the agreement by their failure to leave Maghdushah. He also accused Yasir 'Arafat of wanting to preserve the current status quo and to increase the tension until the Islamic summit is held in Kuwait. He also denied that the PLO played any role in releasing the French hostages. He asserted that Amal, alongside Palestinian nationals, will continue to defend the Palestinian cause and people. He denied reports about cooperation between him and President al-Jumayill against the Palestinians. He accused the Lebanese Forces and the Phalangists of facilitating the entry of Palestinians belonging to 'Arafat from Juniyah to the Shatila camp.

Birri said that he resides in Syria voluntarily and thanked the Syrian leadership, which has tried and is trying to make the Iranian project a success and to stop the bloodshed.

Concluding his statement, Birri accused some Palestinian factions of presenting a new plan every day in an attempt to avoid the Iranian plan on which Amal and the PNSF have agreed. Birri asked these people to implement the national salvation decision — namely, withdrawal from Maghdushah and return to the camps. He said he would then be prepared to sit with them and agree on a solution satisfactory to all.

Cease-Fire Not in Effect

NC301030 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Intermittent artillery fire is taking place along the Shatila combat lines. One exchange martyred three children and wounded another three. A guarded calm, broken by occasional shots from snipers, now prevails in Al-Rashidiyah.

As is known, Nabih Birri announced a cease-fire yesterday, which was welcomed by the PNSF. However, this accord has yet to be put in force.

PNSF Leader Thanks Iran

LD301026 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Damascus, Dec 30, IRNA — The National Salvation Front leader Khalid al-Fahum expressed appreciation for the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to end the war at refugee camps in Lebanon and for the Amal Movement's unilateral declaration of a cease fire as well as its decision to lift the siege of Al-Rashidiyah camp.

He told IRNA Monday [29 December] that the National Salvation Front is committed to respecting the cease fire.

Al-Fahum emphasized that Islamic Republic of Iran's peace plan should be fully implemented and that the group under his leadership highly values the Iranian authorities', especially President Khamenei's, efforts to put an end to camps war.

He also thanked Syria for its role in the matter.

Islamic Jihad Warns Media Over Reports on Hijack

NC301013 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Dec 86 p 8

[Statement by Islamic Jihad sent to *Al-Nahar* in Beirut along with a picture of American hostage Terry Anderson]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

"Ye who believe! If a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest ye harm people unwittingly, and afterward become full of repentance for what ye have done." [Koranic verse] Verily God Almighty spoke the truth.

To the public and to the local and international mass media: We would like to deny reports carried by the media that the Islamic Jihad Organization has claimed responsibility for the operation involving the Iraqi airliner. We also wish to stress the following points:

1. In our previous statements, we explained how we would deal with the press and media. We noted that our declarations would be accompanied by a piece of evidence — namely, a photo of one of the detainees in our custody. Therefore, any statement lacking such evidence cannot be one of ours.

2. The frequency with which reports attributed to our organization have been disseminated by the media is further proof of how deeply some of these media are involved with local and international intelligence services. We warn them of the consequences of continuing this policy. From now on, any news service that does so will suffer our response, which will be merciless.

3. In its Jihad approach, our organization (as noted in the statement) [not further specified] does not enter into alliances with deviant parties, which have grown outdated due to ineffec-

tiveness, bankruptcy, and retreat from the true line of Jihad. All efforts by these parties to exploit the work of Mujahedin and to use it for their personal gain are doomed to fail. We will be waiting for such attempts.

Signed:

The Islamic Jihad Organization

December 1986

Syrian Envoy Meets With Al-Huss, Al-Husayni
NC291917 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1715 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Political sources in West Beirut say that the possibility of a [Lebanese-Syrian] summit is increasing and that a meeting between the two leaders is imminent. The same sources expect the summit to take place suddenly and very soon.

Labor and Education Minister al-Huss has said: There is a real possibility that the summit will take place. However, there is nothing definite that can be announced at this stage. Al-Huss' statement came following a meeting with Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, envoy of Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Al-Haj 'Ali also met with Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies al-Husayni and gave him a message from Khaddam. Al-Husayni stressed the importance of the continuing Syrian role.

Oil Minister on Foreign Aid for Oil Industry

JN292001 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 28 Dec 86 p 6

[Text] Al-Dammam *Al-Yawm* — Washington — Syria has affirmed that it is ready to run its local oil industry without any foreign assistance. Syrian Oil and Mineral Wealth Minister Ghazi al-Durubi announced that any Western move to withdraw the Western oil companies operating in Syria will not have much effect on Syria's oil industry, adding that Syria is ready to face all possibilities in case the foreign companies withdraw.

The Syrian official was referring to decisions by the EEC and the United States to impose economic sanctions on Syria in solidarity with Britain, which claimed that Syria was involved in an attempt to blow up an El Al airliner bound for Tel Aviv from Heathrow Airport. Al-Durubi was also quoted as saying that Syria has qualified national personnel capable of running the local oil industry without any foreign assistance.

Policy on Lebanon, Arab Cause Reiterated

JN291506 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Respected listeners: During an audience with a delegation of the Lebanese Islamic Unification Movement, President Hafiz al-Asad reiterated Syria's concern for Tripoli's security. He affirmed Syria's determination to work to preserve the city's security in the interests of its inhabitants and its future stability.

Syria's interest in Tripoli's security is not new, and Syria's interest is not confined to this city. It is an expression of Syria's principled policy toward fraternal Lebanon based on extending all possible assistance to the Lebanese brothers to overcome the anomalous situation caused by 11 years of internal strife. Previous experience has shown that Syria has never hesitated to respond to the appeals of the Lebanese brothers and to extend the required assistance whenever possible.

Syria's eagerness to preserve the security of the Lebanese brothers and to help them overcome the complex difficulties facing them has always been coupled with a distinction between those who work for their country and those who work with suspect external inspiration to create situations serving only the enemies of Lebanon, Syria, and all Arabs.

While extending assistance to the Lebanese brothers who are concerned about their own safety and stability and who are eager to extricate their country from its troubles and abnormal situation, Syria always reiterates to those who believe they can confuse Syria's position in Lebanon or divert it from its basic battle against imperialism, Zionism, and their projects, that Syria does not forgive the suspect ones, the hirelings, and those who receive instructions from abroad. Syria does not tolerate the dirty hands that exploit everything, including religion and sectarianism, to serve ends that have nothing to do with religion, morality, nationalism, pan-Arabism, or hostility to imperialism and Zionism.

The plotters in the cellars of Washington and Tel Aviv and in the dens of defeatists, hagglers, and those who trade with the cause and who dream of using Lebanon as a tool to pressure Syria and confuse its leadership to divert it from the basic Arab battle against imperialism, Zionsim, agents, deviators, traitors, hirelings, and the Camp David line — all these must meet with disappointment and frustration because nothing will be able to divert Syria from its basic battle and pan-Arab commitment or make it forget its enemy and the enemy of the Arab nation. Nothing will make Syria forget that the nation's enemy is in occupied Palestine and in the occupied southern Lebanese territory.

Syria's insistence on shouldering its responsibilities toward the Arab nation has on the one hand made it a pioneering Arab force bent on liberating occupied Arab territory, restoring usurped Arab rights, and gathering around it the Arab masses and pan-Arab forces that reject capitulation, and on the other hand has made it the target of plots, pressures, and imperialist and Zionist threats.

Saddam Husayn's suspect aggression against the Iranian revolution has all along failed to divert Syria's attention and interest from the basic pan-Arab battle in Palestine. 'Arafat's deviationist leadership has fabricated differences with Syria to facilitate its entry into the Camp David orbit, but has failed to divert Syria from the pan-Arab battle or change its noble stand on the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's rights.

Therefore, the lackeys of imperialism and Zionism and the tools of deviation and capitulation will never be able to divert Syria's attention from the Arab nation's battle. This is the secret of Syria's strength and this is the essence of its policy in Lebanon and everywhere.

Arabs' 'Sudden Interest' in Lebanon Noted

JN241457 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: Every now and then, some official or nonofficial Arab side shows sudden interest in Lebanon and in the conditions of the Palestinians there. Most of the time this interest is confined to rhetoric, similar to that expressed by the Arab League and its secretary general immediately following the establishment of the aggressive, racist Zionist entity on Palestinian soil. It is well know that heated statements, pompous speeches, and emotional appeals have not changed anything because they were not coupled with actions commensurate with statements and speeches. We do not mean to be sarcastic when we say that statements hostile to the imperialist and Zionist plots and not supported by actions or by a realistic policy in confronting the enemies and their methods cannot lead to useful and practical results.

Shedding tears over the conditions in Lebanon and over the Palestinians there will not benefit the Lebanese or the Palestinians, will not solve any of the current complications in Lebanon, and will not help reach a national solution there. Those who

thought that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon with the open blessing of the United States did not justify holding Arab meetings on any level, whether within the Arab League or outside it, cannot now find a convincing justification for dealing with issues that are strictly internal Lebanese problems. Those who stood as spectators when the U.S. war machine wreaked havoc in Lebanon, savagely killing Lebanese people, destroying their property, indiscriminately occupying their territory, and attacking all the Lebanese towns and villages as well as the Palestinian refugee camps; and those who kept silent over the Israeli massacres, which wiped out tens of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinian people — they will not find convincing justifications for their sudden interest in the differences fabricated by the defeatists and those who aspire to sit at the negotiating table of capitulation, such as the deviationist 'Arafat group, with the open blessing of Israel and the United States.

Those who really want to end what they complain about in Lebanon should not wade in the waves of emotional speeches and statements. They should throw their weight behind efforts to stop the plotting of those who are playing with fire and who are tampering with the Palestinian people's cause, the cause of the Lebanese national resistance against the Israeli occupation, and the cause of Arab steadfastness. They should pool all the Arab resources to resist Israel and U.S. imperialism, stop the trends of defeatism and capitulation, and end the despicable trading with the blood and cause of the Palestinian Arab people.

Those who really defend the Palestinian Arab people's cause must of necessity be on the side of the Lebanese national resistance against the Israeli occupation. They must not allow themselves to instigate those who fight for the same cause to take up arms against each other. It is impossible for those who want to resist Israel to take up arms against the national resistance that fights the Israeli occuaption. Those who want to defend the Palestinian Arab people's cause cannot work against the front that is actively confronting the Israeli occuaption, plans, and plots to liquidate the Paelstinian cause and include Lebanon in Israel's security belt.

Those who stand to benefit from weakening or confusing the anti-Israel front in Lebanon are Israel, the United States, the agents, the deviationists, the capitulationists, and those who look forward to direct negotiations with Israel from a position of weakness, humiliation, and supplication. Sincere Arab efforts should be directed against those who serve the enemy's aims. These efforts should serve the Lebanese people's steadfastness and the Palestinian Arab people's adherence to their inalienable rights and their rejection of all compromises over these rights.

Medical Aid for Lebanon Arrives in Damascus

LD281125 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0936 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Damascus, 28 Dec JANA — A medical team that includes a number of Libyan doctors and nurses has arrived in Damascus during the past 2 days. A large consignment of medicines, medical equipment, and milk for children also arrived. The medical team will provide necessary medical services for the wounded in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, which have been subjected to a war of annihilation and siege by the Shi'ite despair gangs. This move comes after an emergency meeting of the Libyan-Palestinian medical committee held recently in Tripoli.

Iranian Envoy on Conference With Iraqis

JN241911 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Damascus, 24 Dec (SANA) — Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Hasan Akhtari emphasized that the objectives of a conference of solidarity with the Iraqi people in Tehran are to create further harmony in the struggle of the oppressed Iraqi people and to develop this struggle against the fascist regime ruling Iraq.

In a news conference today, Akhtari pointed out that the conference of solidarity with the Iraqi people, in which Iraqi opposition leaders and delegations from friendly Islamic countries are participating and which will continue until 27 December, will discuss a number of issues related to the Iraqi people and the future of Iraq as a country that must be liberated from tyranny and oppression in a manner that safeguards its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and its people's right to self-determination.

The Iranian ambassador added: When it imposed its war on Iran, Saddam's regime was seeking to partition Iran, to eliminate the contradictions between its dictatorial course and the course pursued by the struggles of the Iranian Islamic revolution and to make this unjust war an Arab-Persian war. But, he continued, this conspiracy was foiled, thanks to the honorable stands of some friends of the Iranian Islamic revolution in some progressive Arab countries, headed by Syria and Libya.

U.S. Decision Creates Snag for Arms Sales To RSA

TA251040 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew
25 Dec 86 p 1

[Report from Jerusalem by the political correspondent]

[Text] From now on an interministerial committee will have to approve every trip made by a senior official to South Africa in light of the sensitivity involved.

The committee was issued instructions not to approve trips to South Africa except in extraordinary circumstances. One can assume that ministers will definitely not be permitted to travel to that country to the extent they did in the past. The committee, however, has no say in private travel.

Israel confronts a difficult political problem now that Congress has passed a resolution that requires the President to report which of those countries receiving U.S. aid are violating the arms embargo on South Africa.

Congress recommends that those countries selling arms to South Africa not receive U.S. aid. Israel has commercial ties with South Africa that include the sale of weapons. In the wake of the U.S. resolution Israel will have to halt its arms sales to this country.

VOA Transmitters To Be Set Up in 'Arava

TA291314 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Israel is prepared to accept some of the U.S. demands on technical matters related to the establishment of Voice of America transmitters in the 'Arava area, but it will insist on upholding its economic and other interests. This was decided today in a ministerial consultation held at the Prime Minister's Office attended by the prime minister, the foreign minister, the finance minister, the communications minister, and defense establishment officials.

Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that contacts between the Israeli and U.S. teams on this issue will resume within a few days, and it seems that the negotiations will be concluded within approximately 2 months.

Details of Findings on Shin Bet Affair Published

TA291935 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Attorney General Yosef Harish officially announced this evening that he does not intend to bring any of the people involved in the Shin Bet affair to trial. In his decision, Attorney General Harish notes that the investigation material does not provide corroborating evidence about the involvement of the political level in initiating and directing the disruption of the investigation into the No 300 bus affair and the legal proceedings.

The report drawn up by a Justice Ministry investigative team, the gist of which was reported on the Voice of Israel last week, was published in full this evening, with the exception of four secret appendixes. Our legal affairs correspondent Gil'ad Sher reports:

It is best to start from the end, from the epilogue concluding the investigation report, which expresses the hope that the bodies in charge of the Shin Bet's activities will draw the administrative and moral conclusions from the report in order to uproot deviations from the law. While taking its special security needs into consideration, Israeli law absolutely forbids the killing of prisoners, and an order to disrupt legal proceedings is obviously illegal. Even that area of security activities known as the gray area, the jurists emphasize, must be regulated and controlled by the law. This case cannot be included in the category of special security needs and to argue as much is merely wrong and misleading.

Following this epilogue, we go back to the beginning. The legal opinion signed by Yehudit Karp, 'Edna Arbel, and Yitzhaq Eliasoff begins with a description of what has come to be known as the Shin Bet affair: the killing of the terrorists on the night of 12 April 1984 and all the subsequent developments, the appeals to the High Court of Justice, the pardons granted to the Shin Bet operatives, the Zore'a and Blattman commissions, and the disciplinary measures meted out in the Army and Shin Bet.

Let us start with the incident itself, the killing of the two terrorists. The order was issued by the director of the Shin Bet, Avraham Shalom, who gave two reasons for it, the first being that the terrorists' action justified the order. The Justice Ministry team totally rejects this and rules that given the circumstances of the incident the Shin Bet director's order should not have been issued and is totally wrong. The second reason was the authorization the Shin Bet director claims to have received from the political level. There is no argument over the fact that the Shin Bet director did not receive such an order from the prime minister on the night of the incident; according to Shalom, the authorization for the order was based on a conversation he held with the prime minister in November 1983. In his testimony, Mr Shamir confirmed that such a conversation was held. In any event, since the director of the Shin Bet has been pardoned, his criminal responsibility regarding the order to kill the terrorists taken prisoner is not a subject for discussion.

As for the responsibility of the political level in the death of the terrorists, Prime Minister Mr Shamir bears no responsibility whatsoever. He said as much in his testimony: Nobody asked me what was to be done with the terrorists, and therefore I could not have given an order to kill them.

As for the responsibility for disrupting legal proceedings, the jurists say: The explanations by the director of the Shin Bet make one wonder about his version of the matter. According to the evidence, the cover-up actions were carried out at the order and with the participation of the Shin Bet director, as well as other Shin Bet operatives. Mr Shamir's version on this point, that he did not know about the cover-up actions, is corroborated by other testimony — by Peres, Arens, Meridor, and attorney Ram Kaspi. The version of the Shin Bet director about the prime minister's backing for the disruption of legal proceedings is not corroborated by any other evidence.

Summing up, the jurists state that in view of the above, it cannot be ruled that Prime Minister Shamir knew about the order to kill the terrorists and the action taken to disrupt legal proceedings and conceal facts from the various commissions. Consequently, his responsibility for the disrupting actions cannot be determined.

So much for the report. Let us proceed to those points, which emerge from an initial perusal of the report, that give us food for thought.

First, the investigation confirms that the testimony of the men who exposed the affair — the three senior Shin Bet officials — was truthful and that the argument of former Attorney General Yitzhaq Zamir was fully verified, both by the collected evidence and by the pardons granted to the Shin Bet operatives.

Second — and here I am quoting from the report — it should be pointed out that in a conversation the Shin Bet director held with R. on the Sunday following the incident, he spoke about the backing of the political level without elaborating on the nature of this backing.

Third, the Justice Ministry team does not determine exactly what directive or instruction was given by the prime minister in his conversation with the director of the Shin Bet in November 1983, a conversation that dealt with the killing of terrorists in certain cases. The content of this conversation is not elucidated in the report.

Moreover, the team stated that in view of the public demand to investigate the cause of the terrorists' death, the Shin Bet director did whatever he could to prevent an investigation, particularly by holding contacts with the prime minister in a bid to persuade him that the issue should not be looked into.

Another point: The team did not look per se into the serious claim made by Yosi Ginossar [not further identified], who said the denial and concealment of facts from the Zore'a Commission had not been a deviation from the norms, or in other words that there had been similar cases in the past.

We continue with a laconic statement from the report: The investigation did not fully exhaust the issue of the disruption of legal proceedings.

Here are some more details about Yitzhaq Shamir's testimony on the report he received close to the time of the incident, and I quote: On Sunday morning after the incident, I apparently met with Avraham Shalom who told me about the hijacking of the bus and the chaos surrounding the incident. Mr Shamir emphasized that until the end of his tenure he did not deal with this issue, he showed no interest in it, and he did not ask the Shin Bet director about it. According to Mr Shamir, the entire issue came up in October 1985, when Re'uven Hazaq and his friends called on Mr Peres.

The team did not look into Mr Shamir's attitude and reactions, according to which the entire issue of the hijacked bus would be better off closed than exposed.

Peres Accepts Report

TA300855 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0830 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Here is a first reaction by Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to the Harish report: Shim'on Peres says he accepts the conclusions of the report and does not feel that he has been hurt by them. He sees the Shin Bet affair as over. Our correspondent Yinon Shenkar spoke with Mr Peres in the Diplomat Hotel in Jerusalem a short time ago:

[Begin recording] [Shenkar] From what has been published, it appears that actually you are the only one who may have been hurt by the Harish report, because you supported Avraham Shalom all along.

[Peres] I accept the conclusions. I was not hurt in any way. I dealt with the issue after it had come to legal proceedings three times. I am not a legal proceeding. [as heard]

[Shenkar] It has nevertheless been found that the political echelon...

[Peres — interrupting] Nothing has been found and nothing should be invented. As for the political echelon, at least as far as I am concerned: I was not involved in the affair; I acted innocently, according to my conscience, and I have no need to defend myself or explain anything.

[Shenkar] Is the affair over as far as you are concerned?

[Peres] I think so. [end recording]

Shamir, Rabin Comment

TA291726 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir believes that the report on the Shin Bet affair signifies the end of the matter and that now the Shin Bet should be allowed to return to handling its business with the confidentiality it requires. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is presently perusing the report, but in any event believes that the Shin Bet affair is not a matter for partisan polemics.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that the attorney general's decision is the final word in the affair, and it should no longer be dealt with. He stressed that no objection should be raised to the report being publicized. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports that during a tour of Bet She'an, Minister Rabin said that cooperation between the IDF and Shin Bet had not been harmed as a result of the affair.

Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev has said that if a vote were taken in the government now, he would again support the establishment of a judicial commission of inquiry. However, there is no chance of the government changing its opinion, and it should be considered final. Minister Bar-Lev told our correspondent Shlomo Raz that the police investigation did not deal with

the performance of the prime minister and Shin Bet chief, but rather with criminal aspects only.

Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that the Alignment leaders believe that the announcement of the investigation's findings marks the end of the affair. Minister Moshe Shahal also does not demand that the affair be further investigated. He has congratulated the prime minister and his aides in that the report supports their versions.

Future Responsibility Shared

TA301120 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 30 Dec 86 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] A committee of three ministers headed by the prime minister will be responsible for the Shin Bet in the future. To date, the ministerial responsibility for the Shin Bet lay with the prime minister alone. In the framework of steps taken to increase supervision over the Shin Bet, it has been decided that the senior committee will include the prime minister, foreign minister, and defense minister.

A senior government source told *Hadashot* yesterday that closer supervision is essential following the disclosures on what happened in the senior echelon of the organization. "Following the publication of the report into the No 300 bus affair, we cannot accept the sort of relations which have existed to date between the Shin Bet chiefs and the political echelon."

The appointment of the ministerial committee of Shamir, Peres, and Rabin is based on the recommendation of a team of experts headed by former Intelligence Chief Major General (Reserve) Aharon Yariv. Yariv recommended that more people be made responsible for the Shin Bet.

Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres have decided not to react to the Shin Bet report and advised their associates not to exacerbate the political debate.

Hadashot has learned that all of the senior Shin Bet officials who were involved in the No 300 bus affair resigned from the service at the insistence of the new Shin Bet chief. Among those who resigned is the Shin Bet man who appealed to the High Court of Justice against Avraham Shalom and demanded reinstatement.

Press on Investigation

TA291111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 29 Dec 86

[From the review of midday press editorials]

[Text] *Hadashot* says it is difficult to accept the attorney general's conclusions as the final word on the investigation of the Shin Bet affair and as removing all doubts from all aspects of the affair. The paper calls for a full investigation of the relationship between the political and military levels.

Yedi'ot Aharonot says that the team that investigated the affair has definitely cleared Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres. Everyone in the country can breathe a sigh of relief in view of this finale.

More Press Reaction

TA300740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0430 GMT 30 Dec 86

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] *Ha'aretz* says that even if the jurists who investigated the Shin Bet affair did not confirm the suspicion regarding Mr Shamir's criminal responsibility, his ministerial responsibility is still valid. The crime was perpetrated by people under his jurisdiction. The political echelon cannot dodge its responsibility. Yitzhaq Shamir is not the only one responsible; Shim'on Peres too has to assume his share. It is he who refused to pass on to the attorney general the complaint of Re'uven Hazaq, Rafi Malka, and Peleg Radai, thereby attempting to prevent a criminal investigation and managing to delay it for several months. Not only Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres share the public responsibility; all the Inner Cabinet members share the ministerial responsibility. They agreed to pardon the four senior Shin Bet officials and, indirectly, the seven other Shin Bet members as well. It should be recalled that the president made the pardon of the four senior officials conditional upon the Inner Cabinet's approval.

Hamodi'a writes that the lengthly involvement with the Shin Bet affair was not the result of lofty motives. Those who sharply attacked Shamir did not set out to avenge the death of the two terrorists. Had it been another prime minister, they would undoubtedly have been more cautious with their remarks. All these people were motivated by other considerations that had nothing to do with the death of the two murderers, to whom can be applied the saying: He who comes to kill you, kill him first. The terrorists should know that their hijack attempts will not end in negotiations. The conclusion of the affair should be cause for reflection by those who distracted attention from the country's vital concerns. It would have been preferable for the team of jurists to solve crimes that weigh upon us and for the political team to deal with social, economic, and security problems that are more important to the nation.

Davar says that now it is clear that at best Shamir did not know what a prime minister should have known; in any event, it is reasonable for us to expect an Israeli prime minister to be more alert. But once the government decided to launch a police investigation instead of establishing a commission of inquiry, there is no more room for governmental action on this issue. The political echelon will be judged by the public, whereas jurists and journalists will continue to debate the issue. It seems, however, that both Shamir and Peres owe an apology to Re'uven Hazaq, Peleg Radai, and Rafi Malka, and the Shin Bet — which lost most of its senior level — now needs quiet for healing itself and continuing to work.

The Jerusalem Post writes that the jurists' report, taken as a whole, is a vigorous and explicit reassertion of the doctrine of

supreme court Judge Baraq to the effect that there is no security without law, and of former Attorney General Zamir's insistence on due investigation of the Shin Bet affair. This is the only attitude befitting the State of Israel. The report is far less an exculpation than an indictment of Mr Shamir's grossly irresponsible leadership of the Shin Bet. Jurists cannot very well instruct politicians in their national duty. But the implication of the report is plain enough: The Shin Bet affair has not come to an end.

Cabinet Briefed on Haniyah's Alleged Fatah Role

TA291130 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
29 Dec 86 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Excerpt] *Al-Sha'b* editor Akram Haniyah, who was expelled from Israel to Algeria via Switzerland yesterday, was one of the most senior Fatah commanders in the territories and maintains close ties with Khalil al-Wazir, the head of the PLO military branch who is known by his codename Abu Jihad. This was disclosed by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who briefed the Cabinet yesterday on the decision to expel Haniyah.

It has been learned that Fatah leaders intend to greet him when he arrives in Algeria.

In the framework of his secret activity within Fatah, Haniyah tried to expand coordination with the other Palestinian organizations and transferred funds received from the Fatah command in Jordan to various terrorist elements in the West Bank. He was, among other things, connected with some squad which committed acts of murder. [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff Levi on Military Dangers, Budget

TA281650 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1405 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi by Yitzhaq Golan, Ze'ev Schiff, and Shmu'el Tal — live in the studio]

[Excerpts] [Golan] Good evening to you and happy Hanukkah. Following the peace treaty with Egypt and the de facto peace with Jordan, would it be correct to say that the danger of war on the southern and eastern fronts has been eliminated for the foreseeable future at least?

[Levi] As we define it, a war against us is initiated by whoever wants a war. It is true that since 1977 Egypt has left the circle of war. I would not compare the situation of Egypt with that of Jordan though. As you described it we have a de facto situation with Jordan which is convenient today but cannot be put in the same category as a state of peace which is what we have with Egypt.

Since I assume you will get to the question of the budget, I would at this stage like to say that a budget should serve an army which has to cope with the future, with future threats, and not taking only the past threats into consideration.

[Schiff] Mr Golan asked a question about two important components of the fronts around us. I would like you then to address yourself to the recent past: peace with Egypt; de facto calm with Jordan; the Iraqis are outside the circle of war, not because they love us but because they are very busy. How has this affected the IDF in recent years? Have you adapted yourselves to this or has the budget increased, if you want to connect this point to that of the budget?

[Levi] If I did not want to do so you would have done so. I would like to add to the list of convenient conditions the fact that we have had quiet with Syria, except for the 1982 war, since 1974; the Syrian border is quiet, and not surprisingly, but theoretically paradoxically, there have been almost no terrorist acts launched from there. We have to be prepared for the possibility of war. These preparations cannot be made overnight. Therefore if a threat exists, and the threat is indeed from the Syrian side today — both from the point of view of the close distance involved and the possibility of it materializing — although we do also have a potential enemy in Iraq, for example. The Army must be prepared for this, too. Jordan has been a party to most wars in one way or another, and can, whether under the present circumstances or as a result of possible changes in the situation, take part in a future war. There are transporting countries as well [those which aid with either manpower or equipment or both]. In our calculation or assessment of threats we have surely left Egypt out due to the state of peace between us. However, we may not feel comfortable about this, but we should recognize the fact that even though we left Egypt out, Syria on its own, and surely Syria together with Jordan, have more forces and more advanced weapons than the theoretic coalition of these three countries had in 1977.

[Tal] We are talking about the quantitative aspect here. It is clear today that the IDF will have great difficulty in growing in size and competing with the size of the Arab armies. The Army is expected to be compensated for this with quality. Do you believe that with a reduced defense budget, with a budget which will probably decrease even further, such a compensation is still possible?

[Levi] Quality? Quality exists, today too, and is our only condition, in fact, for overcoming enemies in the future, as well. This condition must be improved, not maintained; namely, if we leave this condition unchanged we will not be left with the kind of quality which will absolutely and almost automatically lead us to victories over our enemies. Progress continues, after all. Progress is made with regard to weapons systems, organization, and cooperation, and we need to offset this progress and exceed it by increasing our total force, our overall power. It is pointless to refer to history now, but we have never had the concept whereby we would decide possible wars with quantity only. Therefore the point of quality is relevant. One should remember a fact which may not be too easy to think of perhaps but still: This quality should be financed and maintained both through the components of the weapon systems and through the human factor. Quality is thus kept and allows us to overcome a great deal of asymetries which exist between us and the enemies. However, one should foster this quality for the future too, not only remember its past.

[Golan] Still, Gen. Levi, this coalition which you have just mentioned does not pose a threat to Israel today. Egypt is outside this coalition, as was proven in the Lebanese war. Even Jordan was outside the coalition then. As far as I know, relying on recent reports, since it signed a peace treaty with us Egypt has decreased its defense budget, while Jordan has plans for investing money in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, 5-year plans. So, when we are not faced with the danger of such a military alliance, and when the Arab world is internally torn and split, cannot the State of Israel still face up to this challenge of reducing the budget?

[Levi] First, it can; second, it does do so; third, I have never said that the IDF cannot carry out its tasks and missions today. I would only like to remind everyone that an army should be based on long-term plans. We today are continuing to enjoy the fruits of plans in which investment was made a few years ago. Those plans have yielded for us the fruits of development, of the purchase of advanced systems. It is those plans which enable us to say that we do not have a threat we cannot face today.

[Levi — continued] However, if we want what I am saying now to be true in 1989, 1990, 1991, and so on, we will suddenly find that we are helpless if we do not invest today. It is impossible to effect immediate repairs in such a complex system, just as it is impossible to effect a sudden halt, it is likewise impossible to take off without the trial run, and this trial run should be carried out with engines and increased power. Therefore, when we talk of the 1987 defense budget, my claim is that we should raise it, not only refrain from reducing it compared with 1986, not for day-to-day needs, not so it will be easier for us to do things in 1987 than in 1986, but in order to invest in that sphere which will allow the continuation of takeoff, as I just described it, in future years as well.

[Schiff] What will happen if you do not receive what you and the General Staff, with the backing of the defense minister, are asking for? What will happen if a cut is effected in the defense budget instead? Can you tell us briefly what may happen?

[Levi] Let us meet in another week. Not only I but also the defense minister presented this to the Cabinet.

[Schiff] Let the public hear this out too, please.

[Levi] I think that some matters should be presented before the decisionmakers involved. I do not really approve of holding discussions over the media rather than at the appropriate bodies. Here too I have said what could be affected as a result of a defense budget cut. This could influence the future. I do not think that one can build a quality army, with such an excellent present and with such a glorious past, when the future of this army is in jeopardy. This jeopardy should be prevented through investments, among other things. [passage omitted]

[Schiff] As for the Lavi project, you in fact accept the definition of the defense minister whereby the Lavi project is a national project, is necessary for economic and technological reasons. You are the chief of staff, after all. Why then should the IDF shoulder this project with its budget? Hence, are you going to tell the government that this issue is important from the national point of view but that you cannot shoulder it in the framework of the IDF budget?

[Levi] I have said this before and let me repeat: From the IDF point of view, both when the project was born and surely today when the size of the budget has significantly changed, it is a possible answer for an operational need but too expensive an answer within the proportions we are facing. Still, I do not want to be left with a declaration only, since I do not want to prepare a plan which assumes that this position of mine will be accepted, that there is no economy, no workers, no engineers and no technological infrastructure to be taken into account, that I do not care for any of this, so to speak — this would have boomeranged on me — since I do not like to throw things out when I know that a seemingly realistic response for them cannot be made [sentence as heard]. This could create a situation where reference would be to a shaky plan. In my opinion, a shaky plan is worse than a busted one. [passage omitted]

[Schiff] It has been published recently that the Syrians have equipped their missiles with gas. What can you say on this matter, not only to the Israeli public but also to the Syrians who are not the only ones who handle these unconventional weapons?

[Levi] The Syrians have chemical weapons. I am saying this to all who listen. Theoretically, chemical weapons are terrible. The fact that they were used in the Iran-Iraq war makes it sound as if these weapons can be used, that they should be viewed as regular or conventional weapons. I think that the Syrians know the difference between our ability to react to or prevent the use of such weapons and the ability of Iran to do so. They are fully aware of this. Therefore, I would not draw an analogy and say that since this kind of weapon was used there it will be used here too. On the other hand, we are not relying on this only, we are not relying on the reasoning of the Syrians, so we are preparing the Army not only to survive under the conditions of a chemical war but also to continue to fight under such conditions. We also take care of the necessary preparations in the civilian sector which may become a target for weapons in general, including chemical ones. [passage omitted]

Peres Against Fund for Territories in Budget

TA281609 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres demands that a $40 million budget be left in the hands of the Agriculture Ministry. The money is registered in the Ministry's books but in fact is used by the Jewish Agency Settlement Division for investments beyond the green line. Mr Peres said this today in a discussion in the Economic Cabinet on the cut in the Agriculture Ministry's budget.

Our economic affairs correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that Mr Peres raised this demand after an angry argument developed between the agriculture and finance ministers. There were also angry exchanges between the finance and health ministers, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had to intervene in order to calm tempers.

West Bank Family Reunion Requests Approved

TA272024 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] In preparation for the New Year the Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria has approved 265 requests for family reunion submitted by residents in the territories. This includes 480 persons.

Requests by a total of about 1,000 people seeking to reunite with their family members in the region were approved in 1986. Our correspondent Arye Gus says this number is double that of 1985 and indicates a change in the policy of the Civilian Administration.

AL-QUDS Criticizes U.S. Stance on Palestinians

TA241432 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
23 Dec pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Murphy...Again!"]

[Text] News agencies have reported that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy will visit this region to explore the possibility of implementing autonomy in the occupied territories.

Anyone following the U.S. policy in the Middle East will not be astonished by these reports; for the U.S. stances toward the Arab-Israeli conflict have not changed despite all attempts by the Arab side to push the peace process forward, starting with the Fes summit resolutions, continuing with the signing of the Amman Agreement, and ending with the call to convene the preparatory conference for peace.

The United States rejected the Fes summit resolution and the clauses of the Amman Agreement, and linked its acceptance of the principle of the convocation of an international peace conference on the Middle East to impossible conditions represented by banishing the PLO from the political arena and the creation of an alternative Palestinian leadership which would deal with the Palestinian problem from the civil rights perspective that constitutes the cornerstone for implementing the autonomy stipulated in the Camp David Agreement related to the occupied territories.

However, Israel, despite rejection of autonomy by the Palestinian people, did not accept even the U.S.-Egyptian viewpoint, which called for implementing autonomy both for the land and the people, and insisted on the need to implement it unilaterally in connection with the people and not the land, which Israel considers an indivisible part of the State of Israel.

We realized a long time ago that the U.S.-Israeli positions urging that the peace process be pushed forward, mean to both countries that the Arab side will accept what Israel wants, that is: the principle of the division of authority, by separating the people from the land and separating self-administration from security control, and other such proposals to change the real substance of the conflict.

The Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied land have repeatedly announced their sincere and definite desire to achieve a comprehensive, durable, and just peace that would ensure their legitimate national rights, foremost of which is their right to self-determination.

We do not know how the desired peace can be achieved as long as the United States and Israel insist on rejecting the principle of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and their right to choose their representatives. For the United States and Israel want to determine the fate of the Palestinian people and choose their leadership even before starting discussions on holding negotiations, and on their form and content.

It appears that the decisionmakers in the United States insist on not learning lessons or drawing conclusions from previous bitter experiences.

ALGERIA

President Bendjedid Receives Libya's Mansur

LD241726 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Excerpt] President Chadli Bendjedid, President of the Republic and the FLN secretary-general, received today Mr Kamil Hasan Mansur, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, who is currently on an official trip to Algeria. [passage omitted]

Messaadia Receives Delegation

LD241642 Algiers APS in Arabic
1510 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Algiers, 24 Dec (APS) — Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Politburo and official in charge of the Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat, received at noon today at the Party Central Office a Libyan delegation, led by secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison Kamil Hasan al-Mansur, which is paying an official visit to our country. A review of historical ties and the good bilateral relations between the two brotherly peoples and countries was made during the meeting.

The two sides stressed the importance of continuing contacts to finding means of further strengthening the relations and extending the scope of cooperation. Current international issues, led by common destiny issues, were also the focus of the talks at the meeting.

Ibrahimi Meets Mansur

LD242222 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] We point out that Algerian-Libyan political talks took place today at the Ministry of Foreign Affair under the chairmanship of Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; and Kamil Hasan al-Mansur, secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison at the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Participating in these talks were brothers Ismail Hamdani and Abdelkader Hajar, members of the Central Committee and secretary general of the Foreign Ministry and Algerian ambassador to Tripoli respectively; cadres of the Foreign Ministry; and the members of the Libyan delegation. During these talks, the two ministers reviewed the Algerian-Libyan relations and the horizons of their development, and they extensively exchanged views about and analyzed the situation in the Arab Maghreb and Arab east and the (?region's) political issues in general.

Delegation Departs 25 Dec

LD252111 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Kamil Hasan Mansur, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, left Algiers this evening, concluding a visit to Algeria. He was received by President Chadli Bendjedid and held talks with a number of Algerian officials on bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them, in addition to regional and international issues of interest to both countries.

In a statement he made in the VIP lounge at the Boumedienne international airport, the Libyan official said that his visit to Algeria was a link in the chain of consultations between the two fraternal countries. He added: I had the honor of meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid. I also held talks with Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia and with my colleague and brother Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi on international, regional, and Arab issues of interest to both countries, as well as matters related to bilateral relations.

On the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah position on the camps war in Lebanon, he said that the Libyan leadership has made its position quite clear on this matter in the official statements made by Libyan officials.

The Libyan official was seen off at the Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Political Bureau member and Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the Algerian ambassador to Tripoli, and the secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Algiers.

Bendjedid Presides Over Central Committee Session

LD281630 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Excerpt] President of the Republic and Secretary General of the FLN Chadli Bendjedid, this morning, at the palace of Nations patronized the official opening of the proceedings of the 17th session of the FLN Central Committee which will last 2 days.

At the beginning of the proceedings the session's bureau, comprised of Brothers Lamin Bouroual, Abdelkader Hijar, Abdelkarim al-Souis, and Sulayman Mohamed Bouali, members of the Central Committee, endorsed the agenda of the first day of the proceedings. The agenda includes the submission of a number of reports on the party's activities and the Supreme Council of the National Language, health, educational organization, building, housing [words indistinct] After hearing these reports, the current session of the Central Committee will begin a general debate this afternoon before committees are set up. [passage omitted]

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Cables Egyptian Opposition Parties

LD251825 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has sent a cable to the Egyptian opposition parties in reply to the cable they had sent him appealing to him to intervene to stop the annihilation of the Palestinian existence in Lebanon at the hands of the Shi'ite Ya's gangs. The following is the text of the cable:

I have received your cable. The Great Jamahiriyah has exerted

and continues to exert all efforts it can to halt the shedding of Palestinian blood. The presence of Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud in the area for some time proves our position.

Your parties' decision to side with the Palestinian camps in this current state of emergency is a positive measure. I wish it could extend to the top of the Egyptian regime, who, by recognizing the enemy and normalizing relations with him, opening the Suez Canal, and reassuring the enemy's southern borders, has provided the enemy with a historic opportunity to devote himself to settling accounts with the northern front, of which the current attacks on the Palestinian camps are only a part.

You are fully aware of the story of the man who, upon being asked where was his ear, moved his right hand behind his head and pointed to his left ear. This is a funny quip. But the sad quip is what you yourselves are doing now by feigning to wail for the Palestinian people at a time when Egypt is totally immersed in high treason against this people and against the Arab nation.

If you are true and serious in your attitude toward the Palestinians, then you would do better to take Egypt out of Stable David and to fight on their side against the common Israeli enemy.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Telegram From Sankara

LD291523 Tripoli JANA in English
1423 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Tripoli, Al Kanoun 29, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The leader of the revolution has received a congratulatory telegram on the new year from Mr. Thomas Sankara, the chairman of the national council of Jamahiriyah of Burkina Faso. It reads:

Dear Brother,

On the occasion of the new year, the entire people of Burkina together with its National Revolutionary Council, its revolutionary government and myself, we send our best wishes to yourself and your country, wishing you happiness. We entreat God to make peace and satisfaction prevail in this new year to promote the friendly and solidarity relations between the masses of our peoples who are aware of their historic task vis-a-vis all oppressed worldwide.

I express my deep-rooted hope to see the line of the two revolutions getting stronger against world imperialist order in a bid for the ultimate deliverance of the peoples achieving noble life.

Please accept our most brotherly regards.

USSR Building Radio, TV Station in Awbari Region

NC291429 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1356 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Cairo, 29 Dec (MENA) — MENA has learned that the USSR is currently constructing and supplying equipment for a long-range radio and television transmission station [mahattat irsal] in the Awbari region north of Sabha in Libya. It is planned that transmission from this station will eventually reach eastward to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia, westward to the Atlantic Ocean, and southward to the equator. This is being done in response to the U.S. construction of a VOA transmitting station in the Negev in Israel, which is directed basically at the Soviet Union and the countries of Western Asia.

SUDAN

DUP Accuses Ruling Party of Rigging Elections

JN241143 Khartoum SUNA in English
1045 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 24 (SUNA) — The Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] which is forming the current goverment with the Al-Ummah Party of Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has accused the Al-Ummah Party of rigging the elections held recently in Omdurman constituency no 50, the daily *Al-Sudani* issued here today reported. At a political rally held here yesterday, Minister of Interior Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn who is also the deputy secretary general of the DUP, reaffirmed that the Party has decided to form committees to follow up the corruption and to combat it. Chairman of the DUP Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirighani and members of the Party politburo have attended the political gathering.

The supporters of the DUP have plainly accused the Al-Ummah party of rigging the poll and called for the disbanding of the coalition government.

It is to be recalled that Al-Ummah Party candidate 'Abd al-Rahman 'Abdallah Nagdallah won the constituency by 8670 votes while the DUP candidate got 6405 votes.

The poll in the said constituency was run again following the death of its former deputy Salah al-Mahdi, brother of Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in a car accident.

Army Chief on Rebellion, Armed Forces

JN291704 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
28 Dec 86 p 18

[Interview with Sudanese Army Chief of Staff 'Abd al-'Azim Siddiq by 'Abd al-Rahman al-Amin in Khartoum — date not given]

[Text] [Al-Amin] On behalf of *Al-Siyasah*, I thank you for this opportunity and hope this interview will be the beginning of a wider discussion concerning military matters of interest to Sudan and its Arab brothers.

[Siddiq] We thank *Al-Siyasah* on this occasion and welcome it in Sudan. I am prepared to answer all of your questions with the utmost clarity and frankness.

[Al-Amin] You returned from southern Sudan a few days ago. Can you tell us about the military situation as you saw it?

[Siddiq] I can say that the military situation in the south in general is extremely good. This applies to the three southern

regions: Equatoria, Bahr al-Ghazal, and Upper Nile. I had the chance to inspect all these regions after assuming my new post as the chief of staff. I visited the Armed Forces' units in Juba, Waw, and Malakal. The main purpose of the visit was to learn about the security situation in general and the conditions of the fighters in the field in addition to the effect of security problems on the people. I can say the situation is reassuring and morale is extremely high. I can also say the outlaws are suffering greatly and the rebellion is dwindling.

[Al-Amin] What are the biggest problems from which John Garang's forces are suffering?

[Siddiq] Currently, the outlaws are suffering from lack of ammunition, food, and supplies. The cause for this is that the distance between their forces in the field and their sources of supplies is very great. Moreover, a great number of people are now rejecting their presence in their regions. They refuse to extend to them any assistance, particularly in the Equatoria Region. There are also the harsh living conditions in these areas which make it impossible for people to extend assistance to the outlaws.

[Al-Amin] After the shooting down of the civilian Sudanese plane on 16 Augst and the subsequent threats to shoot down any plane traveling to and from the south, have military air transport lines been affected?

[Siddiq] Militarily, our air transport lines have not been affected at all. Our military air transportation is continuing to all three southern regions. Our fears centered on civilian planes. Some companies responded for a while to the threats of the outlaws and the exaggerated rumors and propaganda by some Western radio stations and media. These media painted a bad picture of the security situation and were unrealistic.

While it is true there were threats, we were able to secure all the main airports in the south, allowing all military and civilian aircraft to land and take off safely. Any position around these airports which might be used to fire a missile, a shell, or a rocket toward these airports was brought under the control of the Sudanese Armed Froces and was completely secured. I can say that the outlaws' ability to hit or shoot down a plane is very low unless fate interferes. Now that the airports are secure, our planes travel to the south daily.

[Al-Amin] You mean military planes?

[Siddiq] Also civilian planes. Today, for example, we sent two planes to Juba. Yesterday, we sent planes to Waw. Some commercial airlines have started trips to the south. One such company is Trans Arabia which has continuous flights transporting foodstuffs and goods. Today, this company sent two commercial aircraft to Juba.

[Al-Amin] From what you have said, can it be concluded that the military flights from military airports are not affected by threats to down them as was mentioned by Colonel Garang's radio?

[Siddiq] This also applies to civilian planes because we are dutybound to secure the airports. As I have said, we have completed such security. Consequently, securing these airports does not only benefit military planes and is dictated by a national need and also by a commitment on our part. This is because the safety of air navigation routes and other routes is an international matter to which we are committed in accordance with known international agreements. The outlaws' ability to use machine guns or rockets to down, confront, or impede the movement of planes has completely been terminated.

[Al-Amin] You have touched on reports by some Western radios and news media and condemned the way in which these media convey their reports. Can you tell us about the siege of some cities which were reported by several international and Western news media recently? How does a military siege take place under the circumstances of the ongoing war?

[Siddiq] It is untrue that there is a Sudanese city under any kind of military siege in southern Sudan. This is an irrefutable fact I say as chief of staff of the Sudanese Army. All cities are open. The day before yesterday, a train arrived in the town of Malwal from the town of Babanusah, moved from Malwal to the town of Uwayl, and arrived finally inthe town of Waw safely.

Moreover, a few weeks ago we dispatched a shipment of tractors from Khartoum, all of which arrived in Malakal by means of steamers which were carrying food and relief aid and numerous other things. As for a siege, it is theoretically a known military operation and has specific procedures and arrangements which vary according to the target meant to be besieged.

[Al-Amin] Talking about the war in the south, we would like to have an idea about the difficulties that a regular army faces in fighting a guerrilla warfare?

[Siddiq] The difficulty in guerrilla warfare lies in its being spread over a wide area. This means this war can fragment the efforts of a regular army. Another thing is that guerrillas in southern Sudan seek help from the local population and hide among them, benefiting from their assistance. A third fact is that they are fast-moving. We also suffer from a similarity in looks and languages and we cannot distinguish one person from another. Guerrilla fighters can create great confusion in a short time even if they are few in number. For example, an outlaw with a gun can hold at bay a column, as in the case of the steamer (hagligah).

[Al-Amin] In military science, they say that guerrilla warfare is not a very difficult form of war, but it is impossible to realize victory with it. Is this true?

[Siddiq] I do not agree and I do not believe in the impossible. There are many solution for guerrilla warfare. We waged such a war for 17 years and we came out of it with a political solution; not a victory, not a defeat. The current war can be solved politically or militarily or both.

[Al-Amin] You have spoken about the first war in the south from 1955-1972 which ended in a political solution. Do you believe that the southern war which has been raging since May 1983 can be solved militarily?

[Al-Amin] I would like to assert that the military solution is not the best solution for such wars. Neither is the political solution

the only one. However, despite our belief that the military solution is not the only one, we will be ready for it if it is imposed on us. It is possible.

[Al-Amin] At one of his news conferences, the prime minister and defense minister stated that Ethiopia supports John Garang's movement. My question to you is the following: Can you tell us about some of the military information, other than that on weapons, which you get from those you arrest from Garang's movement and which constitutes material evidence of this support which was mentioned by the prime minister and defense minister?

[Siddiq] It is well known that Ethiopia does not produce weapons. The entire world knows from where Ethiopia obtains its weapons, the same weapons which are in the hands of the outlaws. We know that Ethiopia gives refuge to the outlaws, allows them to move on its territory, and prepares for them the bases from which they operate. All these factors are part of what we may call assistance.

[Al-Admin] Let me put the question in another form. *The Washington Post* recently published a report saying that Ethiopia transports John Garang's men by air into Sudan. Can you confirm this report?

[Siddiq] This is possible. As you know, Sudan is large and complete control of its airspace is virtually impossible, particularly in the forest regions, the Equatorial regions, and the rich savanna regions. Therefore, landing of planes is possible.

[Al-Amin] Do I understand from your reply that this air transportation is possible but you lack any evidence of it?

[Siddiq] Yes, we have no evidence of Ethiopian planes transporting Garang's men, but all indications now show that Ethiopia is the only party which at present is assisting the outlaws and providing them with all they need.

[Al-Amin] Permit me to ask you this question which is substantiated by daily reports which I have read in the Sudanese papers for the past 2 weeks, all of which confirm that John Garang has either been wounded or killed. If these reports prove to be true, do you expect any change in the course of action of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, especially since the said reports also say that divisions have taken place in the Movement and that Carabino Kuanyin, John Garang's deputy, has assumed the post of commander in chief?

[Siddiq] I personally do not expect any major changes because the issue is not one dealing with John Garang. The issue is linked to various world trends and interests. In case Garang is killed there will be other men like Garang who are ready to follow in his footsteps.

[Al-Amin] Colonel John Garang and Lieutenant Colonel Carabino Kuanyin were officers in the Sudanese Army. What do you know about Carabino Kuanyin?

[Siddiq] I know him personally. I know him better than John Garang. I know him from when I was the commander of the 13th Division in the Upper Nile and he was under my command as a company commander in that region. From what I know about him, I think he is not qualified to be a chief of staff or a commnader in chief of this Movement.

[Al-Amin] Does your assessment of Carabino Kuanyin as his former commander mean he does not measure up to John Garang in terms of military self-discipline or military performance?

[Siddiq] I can say that Carabino Kuanyin from an intellectual point of view is far less educated than John Garang, who is a university graduate and holds a Phd in economics. Carabino Kuanyin has not pursued the studies which qualify him to become a leader.

[Al-Amin] What about tactical military aspects?

[Siddiq] He is also weak in these aspects. He also is not an administrator. As I said, he was a company commander and his performance was below average.

[Al-Amin] If reports about John Garang prove to be true or if he is removed from the post of commander in chief and Carabino Kuanyin, whom you know so well, assumes this post can you say that John Garang's Movement will experience further divisions in the future?

[Siddiq] It seems that command post appointments are carried out in accordance with the criterion of service in the Movement. I know most of the officers who are now working with John Garang. Before they left the Army I had close relations with them. Carabino Kuanyin is one of them. Another is (William Tut), currently the Movement's chief of staff. There is also (Arok Ton), official in charge of supplies. (Arok Ton) was the officer in charge of communications in the 13th Division. Even John Garang worked with me while he was preparing for his Phd.

[Al-Amin] Can your close ties with the rebels be useful in understanding and maybe solving the problem?

[Siddiq] Certainly. I think personal ties can be a big help in coming to an understanding if the aim is to safeguard Sudan and if internal regional Sudanese claims were treated as such without giving foreign parties a chance to tamper with the country's integrity.

[Al-Amin] Have you ever tried during your meetings and discussions with the political leadership, including the prime minister who is also defense minister, to get things moving by using your friendships, given that the peace talks have been deadlocked since the downing of the passenger plane and because, as you know, a military solution is not an ideal one?

[Siddiq] I have never tried this. I believe politics is for politicians and as a military man politics is no concern of mine.

[Al-Amin] Your answer leads me to ask about an institution in which you are the second in command. What is the role of the Army in the democratic system as you understand it?

[Siddiq] In the democratic system and as defined in the Consti-

tution, the Army protects the country's borders, independence, sovereignty, and security. The Army also protects the Constitution and the democratic system. The Army is in a state of training and preparation to carry out this role. It also participates in social and economic development projects.

[Al-Amin] In Sudan there is a multiparty system and a democratic government. Members of the Armed Forces cast their votes in elections and participate in choosing their representatives in Parliament. How do you reconcile the two situations?

[Siddiq] I would like to point out that the Army in Sudan is a national, completely neutral institution. It has no party trends or loyalties and has no policy except to protect the national soil.

[Al-Amin] Do your laws prevent affiliation with political parties?

[Siddiq] Certainly. Our laws and common interest bans affiliation with parties and organizations to preserve the national character of the Armed Froces.

[Al-Amin] Do the members of the Armed Forces vote?

[Siddiq] Yes. This is their constitutional right.

[Al-Amin] In elections, an Armed Forces member chooses a certain party to vote for because he is convinced by this party's programs or political ideology. Don't you see that this constitutional right leads to favoring a certain party?

[Siddiq] This is true but we cannot rob the people — and in this case the Armed Forces — of their constitutional rights. However, in the Armed Forces we do not allow discussions of party problems on any level. The choice in elections may be on party bases. This is left to the person who cast his vote. However, we do not allow declaring allegiance to any political party or sectarian side at all. The nature of the Armed Forces and their duties necessitate this.

[Al-Amin] There are many pieces of evidence to show the ruin and destruction left by the Numayri regime throughout the past16 years in various sectors of Sudanese society, such as the production sector and others. What form has this destruction taken in the Armed Forces?

[Siddiq] I can briefly say that the Armed Forces were greatly affected — adversely, of course — throughout the past years in terms of training, preparation, and arms. I believe this harm is very grave and disturbing.

[Al-Amin] What did you do to remedy these ills?

[Siddiq] God be praised, we have gone a long way in training our Armed Forces and obtaining the necessary equipment. Everything is proceeding well in this regard, God be praised.

Debt Rescheduling Agreement Signed With Japan
JN251128 Khartoum SUNA in English
1035 GMT 25 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum Dec 25 (SUNA) — Sudan and Japan Wednesday signed an agreement for the rescheduling of bilateral trade debts amounting to four billion Japanese yen (about 28 million dollars) in the context of the 4th Paris Club agreement.

The agreement includes the debts concluded before the year 1984 between Japanese exporters and Sudanese importers. The agreement stipulates the repayment of these debts in twenty installments to be paid twice a year as of the first of January 1990 with a grace period of four years.

This is the second agreement signed between Sudan and Japan this year for rescheduling debts within the framework of the third Paris Club agreement.

With the signing of this agreement with Japan, four Paris Club countries have not yet signed agreement with Sudan, they are France, Sweden, the Netherlands and Denmark because these countries insisted on a precondition of reaching an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The total rescheduled debts within the framework of Paris Club countries have now reached 210 million dollars and it may rise to 260 million dollars if the said countries agree to reschedule their debts to Sudan.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Opens Constitution Referendum Congress

EA241829 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] The first meeting of the Constitution Referendum Commission Congress was held in the hall of the Great Palace today. The congress began its work after an opening speech by Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, PMAC chairman and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, in which he approved the meetings agenda and program.

In his speech, the comrade secretary general pointed out that during the current period, we will accomplish feats that will outstrip all the notable results of our struggle that have been allotted a place of honor in our history, because it is a period in which we will create suitable conditions for the working people of ethiopia to assume direct control of power over the next few months and in which the establishment of the republic will be realized.

The comrade secretary general said that as has been clearly stipulated in the decree formulated by the Referendum Commission, the (?new) constitution will be approved and confirmed as the legal guide for the people of Ethiopia once over 50 percent of the voters approve the document. He said that from now on, all the remaining tasks for the establishment of the republic will be based on the results of the peoples' prime task remaining for the establishment of the republic is the establishment of the National Assembly whose members will be elected directly by the people and which will be a major organ of state power. He said that the positive participation of the people so far has assisted in the development of the content and form of the draft constitution and has been essential to the final shape of the document. He added that the referendum would legalize the document. The comrade secretary general said that the holding of the referendum would also enable the democratic participation of the people to mature to a higher stage.

Continuing the meeting, the congress elected executive committee memebrs of the Constitution Referendum Commission. Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam was elected chairman of the congress.

Comrade Fikre Selassie Wogderes, WPE Central Committee Political Bureau member and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, was elected deputy chairman of the congress. The congress approved the guidelines for holding the referendum on the constitution and the working program of the commission. It also established committees on defense and security, for implementing the referendum, and on education, agitation, propaganda, and control.

During the meeting members of the commission were briefed, with the help of photographs, on the way in which all the country's nationalities will install the historic and initial organ of peoples power by exercising their democratic rights.

WPE Secretary Heads Delegation to PRC, DPRK

LD282220 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] A high-ranking delegation led by Comrade Fisseha Desta, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPE Central Committee, left today to deliver messages from Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam to the leaders of the DPRK and the PRC. In addition to delivering messages from Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, chairman of the PMAC, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, to DPRK President Comrade Kim Il-song and PRC Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang, the delegation will pay working visits to those countries.

The delegation was seen off by Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, member of the WPE Central Committee Political Bureau and foreign minister. The DPRK and PRC ambassadors in Addis Ababa were also present.

Cuban Official Visits Health Institute

EA292133 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Comrade Jorge Risquet Valdes, Politburo member and secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, today inspected the health science institute in Jima town, Kefa region. [passage omitted]

Comrade Risquet presented silver medals to nine Cubans who have completed 2 years' service in revolutionary Ethiopia, an award which was sent from their country. He said that the expansion of health services is one the revolutionary achievements attained through the leadership of Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam. He enumerated the contributions made by Cuban comrades standing alongside the friendly Ethiopian people to strengthen the unity of the two fraternal countries in line with the principles of proletarian internationalism. [passage omitted]

Briefs

Soviet Sports Protocol— A 2-year sports cooperation agreement was signed between revolutionary Ethiopia and the USSR. The agreement was signed during a ceremony held at the Jan-Meda Sports Center by Comrade Tesfaye Shafu, deputy sports and physical training commissioner, and Comrade Vladimir Nosov, Soviet deputy chairman of sports. The agreement signed by the two sports officials provides for exchanges of experience through various contests and aid consisting of sports equipment and facilities. [Text] [*Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 25 Dec 86 EA*]

SOMALIA

Radio Halgan Questions Election Vote Count

EA292149 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] An official statement by the regime said that 5 million people voted for dictator Barre in the so-called elections with which he sought to dazzle the Somali people. It is not surprising that the dictator should say that he was elected president for the next 7 years — this was the expected result. People can elect or reject when they are free to express themselves, but at the moment the Somali people are free neither to express themselves nor to control their own wealth. All are suppressed by dictator Barre at the barrel of the gun, and for that reason the aspirations and wishes of the people can never be the same as those of dictator Barre.

However, when we look at his so-called elections we see surprising things. As we all know, the elections took place in urban settlements in all regions, but not in the countryside. Some 75 percent of pastoralist Somalis live in the countryside and the remaining 25 percent live in towns. From that 25 percent, subtract the 15 percent who did not participate in the so-called elections because they consist of children under the age of 18, sick people in hospitals and homes, prisoners whom the regime regards as opposed to its rule, and old men and women who cannot even walk to the polling stations.

Of the remaining 10 percent, at least 4 percent did not participate because they consist of Somali residents abroad, opposition groups fighting against him and others exiled by the regime. Only6 percent remained to participate in his so-called elections b y 5 million people. According to the regime, the surprising thing is that if 6 percent is 5 million according to the regime, then the remaining 94 percent, consisting of 75 percent pastoralists, 15 percent children, old people and prisoners, and 4 percent living abroad and opposition groups, the population would number 80 million.

So the Somali population numbers 85 million, 5 million being equivalent to the 6 percent that voted for the regime. This makes no sense, and shows that the regime says whatever it wants to. We were aware that the Somali population was estimated at between 4 and 5 million, but if it has risen, the regime should substantiate that it has reached 85 million. This shows us how weak the regime is, that it is not ashamed to say anything, and that it is trying to console itself.

We, as Somali opposition forces, say that the Somali people should have the right to elect a regime that serves Somali interests, and not one that just dreams.

Rebels Claim Army Base Captured 24 Dec

EA261832 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 26 Dec 86

[Text] Units of SNM [Somali National Movement] fighters launched a surprise attack on the 1st Brigade of the 26th Division of the regimes army stationed at Gumburra, 30 km from Hargeisa town in Hargeisa District, the day before yesterday. SNM fighters defeated the soldiers, captured the base at 1730 local time on that day, and inflicted heavy losses in men and material. We will inform you of any details of further losses in the future.

CHAD

Bardai Reports Formation of New GUNT Cabinet

AB291944 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1830 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] It has been expected for several days. Now it is done! The new cabinet of the Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] has been named. It is composed of 13 members. This is undoubtedly an (?unprecedented) political development because the new government team has come to fill a power vacuum caused by the recent political changes within the GUNT. The list of the new cabinet members was presented in a statement on the occasion by the comrade vice president of the GUNT, Nadjita Yombel Leonard. Let us listen to him:

[Begin Nadjita recording] Chadians, brothers and sisters, comrades-in-arms: On this occasion, it is with a special feeling that I am addressing you this evening, on the eve of the year 1987. The comrade president of the GUNT will have the opportunity to make a statement to all the Chadian forces. As far as I am concerned, I have the high honor to present to you [words indistinct] the new cabinet of the GUNT. I want to emphasize first of all that the formation of a new cabinet to lead the revolutionary march of the struggling Chadian people is the positive result of consultations embarked upon at all levels with the various elements of our large struggling front, within and outside the country. Beyond those called upon to take charge of the state affairs, it is the entire hope of a (?martyr) people that is being reborn. The naming of the cabinet also demonstrates our deep conviction to attain [words indistinct] the achievements of our people's major (?goals) which are the strengthening of its unity and its forthcoming liberation from the yoke of imperialism and reaction. Therefore, dear comrades, here is the list of the new GUNT cabinet.

Decree No 1 of 12/86 appointing members of the GUNT. The GUNT president, head of state, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, in accordance with the Lagos Accords of (?21) August 1979, in accordance with the Cotonou II agreement of 15 November 1986, in accordance with the resolution of 12 November on the dismissal of GUNT President Goukouni Oueddei, the resolution of 15 November 1986 on the appointment by consensus of the GUNT president and vice president, decrees:

Article 1. The following comrades have been appointed members of the GUNT:

President.....Acheikh Ibn Oumar Taib
Vice President.....Major Nadjita Yombel Leonard
Minister of National Defense, Veterans Affairs, and War Victims.....(Mahamat Oukonie Guet)
Minister of Interior and Security.....Moussa Mbodou Ali
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.....Dr (Bashio Gamal)
Minister of Justice and Labor.....Aboubakar Abderahman
Minister of Finance, Economy, and Rural Development.....(Mahamat Adei Abdelkarim)
Minister of Information.....Gatingar Telroh
Minister of National Education and Culture.....(Hissein Ibrahim Tahal)
Minister of Public Health, Social Affairs, and Refugees.....(Adjaro Adam Senoussi)
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation....(Mahamat Salif Ahmat)
Permanent Secretary to the Government.....(Tchemgbela Moro)
Deputy Permanent Secretary to the Government.....(Ibingar Ohelie)

Article 2. A decree will be issued later defining the specific functions of each member of government.

Article 3. The present decree comes into force on the day of its signature, and it will be published wherever the need arises.

Issued in Bardai on 28 December, 1986.

[Signed] GUNT president and head of state, Acheikh Ibn Oumar. [end recording]

New Libyan Offensive Against Bardai, Zouar

AB291904 Paris AFP in French 1805 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Paris, 29 Dec (AFP) — Libyan troops on Sunday [28 December] evening and Monday morning launched a new offensive against Bardai and Zouar localities in the Tibesti (northern Chad), confirms a communique by Kailan Achmet, principal private secretary to the GUNT president, Goukouni Oueddei.

According to the communique, the Libyan troops, on Sunday evening, lost about "65 people, two DMB tanks, two Toyota vehicles equipped with 105-milimeter cannons, and five Toyota troop-transport vehicles." "The Libyan offensive," the communique adds, "was halted at Zouar" but resumed Monday morning "around Bardai and Zouar with Libyan troops fully engaged in the fighting."

Moreover, the communique deplores "the attitude of some countries which, obviously, through their silence, encourage Al-Qadhdhafi in his undertaking of occupying and massacring civilians."

France Warned on Intervention

AB291632 Paris AFP in French 1534 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Paris, 29 Dec (AFP) — The Revolutionary Democratic Council (CDR), a faction of the GUNT (opposition movement to Hissein Habre) led by Acheikh Ibn Oumar, warned France today against "the risk of deep involvement caused by French intervention in Chad."

The attempts by the French and the Ndjamena governments "to make believe that there are so-called Libyan troops on our coasts," a communique released in Paris said, "is a new maneuver

aimed at deceiving international public opinion." "We draw the attention of French public opinion and the democratic organizations to the serious situation prevailing in Chad and the risks of a deep involvement caused by the French intervention," the communique added. "Such an intervention will help maintain the policy of the gun adhered to by the French Government in Chad for such a long time and will compromise the future relations" between the two countries.

Zouar Captured

PA291944 Paris AFP in English 1831 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Paris, Dec 29 (AFP) — Libyan forces in northern Chad have captured the strategic town of Zouar in the Tibesti Mountains from pro-government troops following two weeks of fighting, reliable sources said here on Monday.

(Chadian authorities in Ndjamena were refusing permission on Monday to foreign journalists to report on the situation in the north of the country.)

The sources said Libyan troops had captured Zouar early Monday from followers of former President Goukouni Oueddei, who was formerly allied to Libya against the government of President Hissein Habre.

Mr Goukouni was arrested by Libyan authorities in Tripoli after he announced in October that he was rallying to Mr. Habre.

The sources said the Goukouni loyalists had withdrawn into the hills surrounding Zouar, which lies on the southern edge of the Tibesti range on a strategic road leading from the Libyan border to the oasis of Faya-Largeau, Libya's main base in the center of northern Chad.

A close aid to Mr Goukouni, Kailan Ahmet, said Monday in Paris that Libyan troops had launched offensives Sunday against both Zouar and Bardai, in the center of the Tibesti range, but had been repulsed. He said fighting was continuing Monday around both towns.

Officials at the Chadian Embassy in Paris refused to either confirm or deny the reported capture of Zouar, which had been one of the main targets of a Libyan offensive launched in the Tibesti region on December 17.

Chadian sources in Paris said the situation of the Goukouni men holed up in Tibesti was "very difficult" because they lacked weapons and ammunition.

Military analysts here said the taking of Zouar was not expected to give the Libyans a decisive edge in the fighting as long as the pro-government forces still controlled the surrounding hills.

The Libyans, who have occupied the northern half of Chad since 1983, mounted three earlier attacks on Zouar on December 19, 22 and 24. The French-backed Chadian Government accused the Libyans of carrying out intense bombing, including the use of napalm and toxic gas shells, during the attacks.

The Goukouni forces in the Tibesti were supplied with arms and ammunition dropped by French planes on December 16. However, France has said it will not get more involved, and has turned down repeated requests for it to send troops to the north.

President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac met to discuss the Chad crisis in Paris on Monday. Defence Minister Andre Giraud was also present.

In a statement broadcast on Chadian radio on Monday, the government accused its allies, and particularly the Organization of African Unity, of failing to react to the atrocities which it says the Libyans have been carrying out in northern Chad.

Ndjamena Accuses Moscow of Backing Libya

AB292138 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Regional conflicts sometimes constitute indirect battle grounds for great powers. While some subtly and cleverly indulge in these regional conflicts through countries at war, others do so overtly. The Soviet Union is, in fact, to be put in the second category of great powers because its attitude in the face of the Chad-Libya conflict is a clear demonstration of its policy.

In this war, the Soviet Union has always closed its eyes on the occupation of a part of the Chadian territory and the massacres and extortions committed by the Libyan Army on our populations. When it speaks of the conflict, it is mainly within the framework of its confrontation with the West. This is why it often accuses France and the United States of fanning the flames of the war. What a vulgar way of settling its own accounts with these two countries! What an awkward policy of defending injustice to the detriment of law and freedom! In its blind will to oppose free countries, Moscow deliberately pretends not to know that France and the United States are supporting a just war and that they are helping a government to safeguard its people's rights and it's state sovereignty.

The Soviet Union overtly supports Libya in its undertaking in Chad, just as it supports the totalitarian regimes, like itself, irrespectful of human rights. Moreover, the similarity between the two allies in the military, political, and even organizational fields is obvious. For example, the Libya news agency, JANA, resembles in its form and substance its Soviet senior sister, TASS. They are all characterized by lies and misinformation. The so-called Islamic Legion uses the same barbaric methods to annihilate the Chadian resistance as the Red Army did in Prague, Budapest, and as it is doing in Afganistan. Many imperatives are behind the Soviet Union's alliance with Libya. We will mention three in particular:

First of all, there is a military-commercial imperative. In fact, the Libyan regime is one of the largest buyers of Soviet arms in the Third World. As such, Tripoli owes the Soviet state tens of billions of dollars. Therefore Libya constitutes an impressive market to preserve and an ally to be handled with care. It is, therefore, quite normal for Moscow to close its eyes on this ally's

crimes, especially since its hands are far from being clean in this field. In the second place, there is a political-strategic imperative behind Moscow's attitude toward the situation in the region. Despite the fact that Libya constitutes an ideal means for the Soviet penetration of Africa from the north — after its failure in Egypt — Chad is found to be an obstacle that should be overcome at all costs to create the vertical Tripoli-Luanda axis. A similar axis already exists — that is Tripoli-Addis Ababa-Aden. According to Moscow, this axis will only be possible with a government under Libya's power in Ndjamena, and all these efforts being made by Moscow to support Tripoli are, in fact, aimed at achieving this objective. Finally, Moscow is waging an unjust war in Afganistan. This is why, of course, it supports Libya which is doing exactly the same thing in Chad.

As can be seen, it is their considerable and common interests that made the leadership in Moscow support at all costs the incoherent acts and crimes of the Libyan regime in Chad.

GABON

French Prime Minister Chirac Arrives for Visit

AB300925 Paris AFP in English 0858 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Franceville, Gabon, Dec 30 (AFP) — French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac arrived here Tuesday to attend the inauguration of the final section of the Trans-Gabon Railway. He was met at the airport by his Gabon counterpart Leon Mebiane.

Mr Chirac was to accompany Gabonese President Omar Bongo and the president of neighboring Congo, Denis Sassou-Nguesso, to the manganese mining town of Moanda, where the official party was to board a special train for the 40 kilometers (25 miles) back to Franceville, the end of the new line.

The inauguration of the line coincides with Mr Bongo's birthday. He was born in Moanda 51 years ago Tuesday.

CAPE VERDE

Japan Grants Aid for Telecommunications, Food

AB211619 Dakar PANA in French 1505 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Text] Dakar, 19 Dec (PANA) — Cape Verde and Japan today in Dakar exchanged notes on two financial grants totalling 510 million yen (aproximately 1.03 billion CFA francs), it was announced in a communique to PANA from the Japanese Embassy in Dakar.

The first Japanese Government grant of 310 million yen (about 629.3 million CFA francs) is meant to support a maritime radio-communications project of the Saint Vincent station in Cape Verde. This "VHF" telegraphic and telephonic transmitting and receiving equipment will enable Cape Verde to ensure the security of its maritime transportation network.

The second grant worth 200 million yen (aproximately 406 million CFA francs) will cover the costs for the purchase and transportation of rice. It is indicated that this aid is in response to the request by the Cape Verdian Government and will contribute to easing the food deficit resulting from the persistent drought in the archipelago.

The financial grants were signed by Mr Jorge Daniel Spencer, the acting charge d'affaires of the Cape Verde Embassy and Mr Aitaka Oshima, the acting charge d'affaires of the Japanese Embassy in Dakar.

It will be recalled that Japan's nonrefundable aid to Cape Verde for the period of June 1979 to December 1986 amounts to 2.537 billion yen (approximately 4.566 billion CFA francs)

GHANA

New Quarterly Political Journal Published

AB291636 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 29 Dec 86

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Among the stories on the front pages of the *Ghanaian Times* and the *People's Daily Graphic* is the launching of a 48-page journal, the CDR [Committee for the Defense of the Revolution] *Eagle Flies*, a quarterly magazine for CDR'S by Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings in Accra yesterday.

GUINEA

Cooperation Agreement With Cuba Signed

AB291018 Paris AFP in French 1730 GMT 28 Dec 86

[Text] Conakry, 28 Dec (AFP) — Guinea and Cuba signed a draft agreement on cooperation and cultural exchange in Conakry on Saturday. The two countires have agreed to strengthen their cooperation in the fields of education, information, and culture, it was learned in the Guinean capital on Sunday. The same source pointed out that cooperation between the two countries is a quarter of a century old; the first basic agreement was signed between the two parties in October 1960.

It will be recalled that Cuba has always helped Guinea in the fields of health, poultry production, road infrastructure, and housing. Several Guineans have also been trained in Cuba.

NIGER

Tighter Airspace, Surveillance Due to Chad War

AB291235 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Brigadier General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council [SMC] and head of state, this morning received (Claude Sudeste), the French ambassador to Niger and [name indistinct], secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau. During their talks the SMC chairman discussed the current situation in Chad with the two diplomats and reasserted Niger's stand of strict neutrality in the conflict. He also expressed our country's desire to help find a peaceful solution to the conflict for the benefit of the entire Chadian people.

Meanwhile, as some international newspapers have published articles alleging that Niger is involved in the clashes in the Tibesti region, the SMC asserts that no air or land access has been accorded nor will be accorded to any party in the conflict. To this end the necessary arrangements have been made by the Niger Armed Forces to ensure vigilant and constant surveillance of our borders, especially in areas where fighting is likely to take place.

Communique Issued on Kountche's Mauritania Visit

AB250636 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Final communique issued in Nouakchott on 24 December 1986 following Niger President Seyni Kountche's friendly working visit to Mauritania on 23 and 24 December 1986 — communique read by Sani Bako, Niger foreign affairs and cooperation minister]

[Excerpts] At the invitation of His Excellency Colonel Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] and head of state of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, His Excellency Brigadier General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council [CMS] and head of state of the Republic of Niger, paid a friendly working visit to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania from 23 to 24 December 1986.

His Excellency Brig Gen Seyni Kountche was accompanied by a high-ranking delegation, made up of Douda Diallo, minister of culture and communications; El Hadj Habibou Allele, minister of agriculture; and Sani Bako, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. The Mauritanian delegation was made up of several dignitaries, including Hasni Ould Didi, minister of national education and acting minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Messaoud Ould Boulkheir, minister of rural development;

Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Weddady, minister of culture and information; (Camara Ali Pelajoh), adviser at the Presidency of the CMSN; (Brahim Ould Abdelaziz), adviser at the Presidency of the CMSN; (Ba Alioune Mba), permanent secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; (Mohamed Kapri Ould Segan), permanent secretary at the Ministry of Commerce and Transport; and (Ba Amadou Racmi), ambassador and African director at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

During the deliberations, which were held in an atmosphere of friendship and fraternal understanding, the two delegations examined their bilateral relations and exchanged views on the African and international economic and political situations. The two heads of state underlined the excellent nature of their bilateral relations and reaffirmed their determination to consolidate them further by expanding their cooperation in the economic, cultural, and technical fields. To this end, they decided to increase contacts and exchanges at all levels to further strengthen relations between the two countries — relations based on mutual respect, complementarity, and solidarity, responding fully to the aspirations of the Niger and Mauritanian people, who are bound by secular and fraternal bonds of friendship and cooperation.

On the subregional level, the two heads of state renewed their attachment to the objectives of the West African Economic Community, the Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement, and the ECOWAS. The attention of the two heads of state was drawn to the issue of drought and desertification. They expressed their concern for the persistence and intensity of this phenomenon despite progress by the affected countries over the past years. The two heads of state agreed to further pool their efforts in subregional, regional, and international organizations for the implementation of programs to overcome the effects of this disaster. The two heads of state have appealed to the international community to continue its concern for the subregion and to increase its assistance to the people affected by the drought and desert encroachment.

The attention of the two heads of state was drawn to the difficult economic situation of the African Continent. They expressed the hope to see the peoples of the Third World strengthen their unity so that they can better defend their interests in all discussions for the establishment of a more just and equitable world economic order. To this effect, the two heads of state expressed satisfaction over the recent special session of the UN General Assembly on economic recovery and the development of Africa.

Concerning the situation in Africa, the two heads of state reaffirmed the attachment of their countries to the ideals and principles of the OAU. The heads of state reaffirmed their determination to work toward the strengthening of the OAU which they consider as a privileged instrument for the total liberation of the African Continent and for the common struggle of the African peoples for their development. Analyzing the situation in Western Sahara, the two heads of state deplored the persistence of the conflict and expressed the hope that a just and final solution would be found in the shortest possible time.

Concerning Chad, the two heads of state reaffirmed their attachment to the unity, the territorial integrity, and the independence of this brotherly country.

Touching on the situation in southern Africa, the two heads of state reaffirmed their strong condemnation of the apartheid policy and expressed their unflinching support for the people of South Africa and Namibia who have been struggling for the recognition of their fundamental rights, liberty, and dignity under the leadership of their legitimate representative, ANC and SWAPO. The two heads of state launched an urgent appeal for the application of the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations on southern Africa, namely UN Resolution 435 of 1978 on the Namibian issue.

Analyzing the situation in the Middle East, the two heads of state deplored the outbreak of violence in their part of the world. They are convinced that the first and foremost condition for finding a just and definitive solution to the crisis is the restitution of all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and the recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to an independent state.

The two heads of state also expressed their concern for the intensification of the Gulf war and urgently appealed to Iran and Iraq to stop this (?fratricidal) war. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Brig Gen Seyni Kountche expressed his sincere thanks to his brother and friend, His Excellency Col Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, and to the Mauritanian Government and people for the warm and fraternal welcome accorded him and his delegation during their stay in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

His Excellency Brig Gen Seyni Kountche invited his brother and friend, His Excellency Col Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, to pay an official visit to the Republic of Niger. The invitation was accepted with pleasure and the date will be fixed later through diplomatic channels.

[Signed] for the Islamic Republic of Mauritania — His Excellency Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state

[Signed] for the Republic of Niger — His Excellency Brig Gen Seyni Kountche, CMS chairman and head of state

Japan To Provide 2 Billion CFA Franc Grant

AB191644 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 19 Dec 86

[Excerpt] The governments of Niger and Japan have signed an agreement under which Japan will grant Niger about 600 million yen, that is 2 billion CFA francs, for the purchase of pesticides and treatment material. Sani Bako, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation signed for Niger, while Japanese Ambassador Kashiru Ishiola signed for his country. [passage omitted]

SENEGAL

Opposition Democratic League Holds 2d Congress

AB291439 Paris AFP in French 1420 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] Dakar, 27 Dec (AFP) — At the opening of its second congress in Dakar today, the Democratic League [LD], one of the three Senegalese Marxist-Leninist parties, has asserted its desire and determination to unite the Senegalese opposition forces. "The solution to the crisis Senegal is going through can only be found through the united struggle of forces opposed to the regime," the LD secretary general, Abdulaye Bathily, said. Mr Bathily also expressed the opinion that the Senegalese opposition, which comprises 15 parties, "is capable of fulfilling the tasks and obligations necessitated by the crisis facing the present regime," and pleaded for unity among the opposition parties instead of disorderly alliances and evasiveness.

"Neither our party nor any other opposition party alone can undertake and bring about the changes expected by the Senegalese people," he asserted. The LD leader also presented the economic program proposed by his party as "the alternative to IMF and World Bank Loans" in order to end Senegal's economic crisis. This plan covers a period of 20 years and is aimed at the progressive creation of a socialist economy. Its main objectives are to raise the cultural level of the people, to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, and to build the material foundation for the transition to socialism.

The LD congress is expected to end on Sunday [28 December] evening after the election of new officers.

SIERRA LEONE

Officials Discuss Relations With Palestinians

JN271834 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Dec 86

[Text] A Palestinian delegation led by Brother Abu 'Ala' [Ahmad Kurays Jamal Mazuq], member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, met with Sierra Leonean President Joseph Momoh yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed the latest political developments in the region in general and in Lebanon and the occupied land in particular. President Momoh affirmed his country's complete support for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in their just struggle to regain all of their historic, inalienable national rights. The two sides also discussed relations between the PLO and the Republic of Sierra Leone. President Momoh stressed the importance of joint PLO-Sierra Leonean cooperation for their common interests.

At the end of the meeting, President Momoh asked the Palestinian delegation to convey his greetings and those of the Sierra Leonean Government to Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat].

The Palestinian delegation held a similar meeting with the [Sierra Leonean] foreign minister who reiterated his country's stand supporting our people's just struggle. Later, the delegation met with the planning minister and held a lengthy discussion on aspects of economic cooperation between the PLO and the Republic of Sierra Leone and ways to promote this cooperation.

TOGO

Eyadema Receives Message From Gorbachev

AB250701 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the RPT and president of the Republic, this morning granted an audience to USSR Ambassador to Togo Sergey Shaverdyan. Mr Shaverdyan brought an oral message from Mikhail Gorbachev to Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema. Following his talks with the head of state, the Soviet diplomat revealed that he and Gen Eyadema discussed the good relation between the USSR and Togo as well as the role being played by the head of state in favor of peace and disarmament:

[Begin Shaverdyan recording] It is a great honor for me to be received by His Excellency Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, the founding chairman of the RPT and president of the Republic. Everyone knows how great his duties are and how tight his schedule is. I conveyed to the president a message from Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Central Committee. The message deals with the relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the USSR and Togo. I can say that during the audience some international issues were also discussed. Once again, the president demonstrated his perfect knowledge of the world economic situation. It is not surprising because the president's views are widely respected and he is deeply committed to peace and disarmament. As on previous occasions, the audience with the head of state was a source of deep inspiration for me. This time, the inspiration was so great because I was able to congratulate the president on his brilliant reelection as head of state, which confirmed the massive support he enjoys from the entire Togolese people. Of course, I used the opportunity to wish the RPT founding chairman a happy New Year and a fruitful term of office. [end recording]

Ministerial Council Adopts 1987 Budget

AB241536 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 24 Dec 86

[Text] The Council of Ministers met this morning at the State House under General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People and president of the republic.

During the meeting, the Council examined and adopted the 1987 general budget which stands at 89,691,542,000 CFA francs. The Council noted with satisfaction that the 1986 budget, originally estimated at 87,282,784,000 CFA francs, was increased to 90.6 billion CFA francs, that is a 3.3-billion CFA francs increase.

LESOTHO

Military Council Detains Former Officials

MB291643 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1641 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg Dec 29, SAPA — Lesotho's Military Council today confirmed its former ambassador to China, Mr Chaka Ntsane, was detained by security police for questioning, SABC radio news reports.

Several other arrests have also been made. Among them are the under secretary to former Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan, Mr Ranthomeng Matete, and former attorney-general, Mr Molifi Ntlhoki.

Five members of the Basotho National Party's Youth Brigade, who had been arrested following the discovery of communication apparatus at the party's head office, were still in detention.

MOZAMBIQUE

Chemical Weapons Reported in 'Fierce Fighting'

AU291807 Paris AFP in English 1804 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Lisbon, Dec 29 (AFP) — Fierce fighting erupted in Mozambique Monday as government troops seized the initiative, both sides said.

Rebels from the South African-backed Mozambique National Resistance, or Renamo, said in a statement released here that chemical weapons had been used against them.

Renamo said government troops, backed by troops from Zimbabwe and Tanzania, launched a major offensive Monday morning against its bases in the Maringue and Gorongosa regions of central Mozambique.

The rebels said paratroopers had been dropped in and that the bases were under attack from Soviet-made MiG-17, MiG-19 and MiG-21 jets and Mi-24 and Mi-25 helicopters.

Renamo accused the government of "massive" use of chemical weapons, which it said had killed 557 people in surrounding villages, all civilians. The Renamo fighters had already pulled out of their bases, the statement said.

It said Renamo had on Monday overrun the government military base at Cazula for the "second time this year," killing 41 government soldiers and 23 Zimbabweans, and destroying four Soviet-made T-54 tanks and nine BTR-152 armoured vehicles.

Government officials in Quelimane, in the north of the country, said Monday their forces were halting the three-month offensive by Renamo.

Mozambique's official news agency AIM said on Monday that several rebel bases in the districts of Alto-Molocue, Ile, Namarroi and Milange in the northern province of Zambezia had been overrun.

The agency reported provincial officials as saying government forces had overrun a rebel base at Namanjavira in Mocuba, central Zambezia, killing 80 rebels.

The Mozambique Government has repeatedly accused neighbouring Malawi of harbouring the rebels, despite the recent creation of a joint security commission between them.

Other rebel bases captured are named as Nampevo in Mocuba district and Diba in Maganja da Costa district.

Captured rebels, described by the government as "armed bandits", have admitted that Renamo is now running short of ammunition and resorting to knife and "panga" (machete) attacks.

RSA Plans for 'Bandit' Presence in South Fail

MB291639 Dakar PANA in English 1627 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Manhinca (Mozambique), 29 Dec. (AIM/PANA) — South Africa's plan to implant a strong presence of the MNR bandits in southern Mozambique "has failed", the military commander of the Maputo Province, Maj. Gen. Atanasio Mtumuke has said.

Speaking to AIM, Gen. Mtumuke referred to the massive infiltration of bandits across the South African border into Maputo Province in 1984, both before and after the signing of the Nkomati non-aggression accord.

More than 2,000 bandits were infiltrated from the eastern Transvaal into Maputo Province then.

Mtumuke said that South Africa had tried to isolate Maputo City, blocking the communications between the capital and economic centres north of the river Incomati. Much of Pretoria's destabilisation efforts were thus concentrated on the capital, and on Manica district, which lies astride the main north-south highway about 80 kilometres north of Maputo.

Mtumuke said that this plan had been defeated thanks to a reorganisation of the armed forces, and a Mozambican military offensive which eliminated hundreds of bandits, and turned the MNR units into wandering bands.

However, he warned that South Africa "will never stop infiltrating bandits into Mozambique." He added that currently the infiltration in the south was restricted to bandits with specialised training who were given specific targets to sabotage.

Mtumuke was speaking to AIM journalists shortly before arrival at the region of Majosse in Manica district on 23 Dec. Here a unit of the Mozambican Armed Forces (FPLM) had set up camp after a clash with the MNR along what they called "a bandit transit route".

In this clash on 23 Dec., two bandits died. "We have been chasing them since Saturday," one of the commanders said. "They went that way," he said pointing eastwards.

"But we know where they are going. We are just waiting for further orders to go there ourselves," he added.

These soldiers have been in the Manica bush on operations for a month. That afternoon they received fresh supplies of water, biscuits and cigarettes brought by the provincial commander.

Early that evening shots could be heard — first from an AK-47 assault sub-machine gun, and then bazooka shells.

"Those are our weapons," a captain said, as if to calm his journalist guests. But he took no chances, ordering the junior officers to put the soldiers into positions of alert.

In fact, there was no clash. The shots we had heard were from a group of FPLM troops pursuing a small MNR group. The bandits had stolen food and domestic utensils from local people in the north of the district.

"They ran and they must still be running," commented a soldier later. "They were surprised by our presence in the area. This is going well. Tomorrow we will clear this all up." With a sweep of his hand he indicated the surrounding bush.

MNR Offensive in Zambezia Reportedly Halted

MB291452 Dakar PANA in English 1400 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Quelimane (Mozambique), 29 Dec. (AIM/PANA) — The military situation in the central Mozambican province of Zambezia has changed radically over the past month in favour of the Mozambican Armed Forces (FPLM).

The offensive launched by the South African backed MNR bandits from Malawian soil in late September has ground to a halt. Now local journalists of the Mass Communications Office (GCS) report major operations are under way to sweep the MNR out of various parts of the province.

Reports, not yet confirmed, have arrived in the provincial capital, Quelimane, indicating that in the last two weeks important bandit camps have been overrun in the northern Zambezia districts of Alto-Molocue, Ile and Milange.

A bandit captured in the district of Namarroi last November said that he was part of a group of 5,000 who had been infiltrated from Malawi. He said that at the time of his capture they were beginning to run short of ammunition.

His words seem to have been confirmed in attacks, late December, by bandits using cold steel rather than firearms. Last week attacks of this sort were reported from Nicoadala district, 30 kilometres north of Quelimane and from Banjone in Maganja da Costa district, some 150 kilometres north-east of Quelimane.

Last week the FPLM also destroyed a major bandit base at Namanjavira, in the central district of Mocuba. About 80 bandits were killed here, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition were destroyed, local sources have said.

On 13 Dec., Mozambican forces destroyed another important MNR base at Nampevo, between the districts of Mocuba and Ile. In the same week, government troops also captured Diba, considered the most important bandit camp in Maganja da Costa district.

In Quelimane itself many people doubt the seriousness of Malawi's participation in the joint security commission with Mozambique. They ask whether Malawi will really honour its promise of not allowing Malawi once again to become a springboard for new South African bandit offensives against Mozambique.

One common hypothesis in Quelimane is that the South Africans may try to reorganise their bandit forces in Malawi just as they did after the MNR headquarters of Casa Banana in the central province of Sofala was taken by Mozambican and Zimbabwean forces in August 1985.

Dhlakama Said To Visit Area

MB300943 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] [Words indistinct] told AIM that they saw a plane from Blantyre land on 7 December on the airstrip in Milange, a Mozambican village in Zambezia Province. The group said that they learned later that the plane was carrying the leader of the armed bandits, Afonso Dhlakama, and 42 Portuguese and South African mercenaries. Other people, who were captives of the armed bandits in Milange at that time, confirmed these statements and said Dhlakama stayed in Milange for about 30 minutes. The (?two) refugees, who are in Moatize, Tete Province, said that the plane carrying Dhlakama and his collaborators then returned to Blantyre.

Commentary Says 'Mask' of RSA Democracy Falls

MB291837 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Commentary by Radio Mozambique journalist Machado da Graca]

[Text] For a long time, South Africa has affirmed that its political system is a democracy similar to those existing in Western countries. In support of this claim, it pointed to its political parties, its parliament, its elections at regular intervals, and, of course, its total freedom of the press. If anyone pointed out that this only applied to the white community, a small minority in the country, South Africa claimed that blacks were not citizens of South Africa but of Bantustans and therefore did not have any political rights in the country. This argument made no sense to anyone besides South Africans, but it was enough for them.

This comfortable mask has fallen off with the imposition of press censorship and other measures to ensure that only the government's own version of events reaches the people. Under the

constraints of this censorship, newspapers, most political parties, and social and political organizations have expressed their utter condemnation of these measures. Only the ultrafascists have supported them. In the United States, Great Britian, and other Western countries, many have been genuinely taken aback and have asked: How is it possible that South Africa, which claimed it was defending the civilized values of the Western world, could introduce such measures?

It appears that the government of P.W. Botha has torn off the mask of democracy and trampled on it. This has made Western governments and many whites in South Africa realize something we have been telling them for a long time: The South African regime is in no way a liberal and democratic regime, but the legitimate heir of the Nazism-fascism of Hitler, Mussolini, and Salazar.

SOUTH AFRICA

New U.S. Sanctions Measures 'Certain To Hurt'

MB291221 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1215 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 29, SAPA — A hammer blow from new sanctions measures seem certain to hurt — and even devastate — the profitability of U.S. subsidiary companies in South Africa, many of which have in any case been suffering hard times in terms of profits..

Long-delayed, new regulations, finally issued by the U.S. Treasury Department to implement the ban on new U.S. investment in SA, close all the major loopholes by which U.S. subsidiaries in SA have been able to carry on "much as usual" even where there has been disinvestment by the American parent companies.

The new U.S. rules, published today, prohibit parent companies from injecting new resources into their SA operations. It is reported that: "Their increasing obsolescence is thus assured."

Moreover, if U.S.-owned plant is destroyed or damaged by accident or sabotage, the parent is only allowed to restore it to its previous, often outdated, condition if it is using outside funds.

Many of the strategies which American companies have used to pull out of SA while permitting their former subsidiaries to remain in business may not be illegal, say experts. "For instance, the General Motors agreement to pay off GMSA's debts could now run foul of the law. So could transfers of assets to SA buyers made subject to an agreement to repurchase.

"The 50 U.S. subsidiaries in SA known to be planning possible withdrawal from the country could now be joined by another 50 next year..." says a Washington commentator.

Locally, it is reported that many companies have been left dangling in confusion, because even though the investment ban technically went into effect on November 16, bureaucratic delays have prevented the administration issuing its official interpretation of the obscurely drafted law for more than a month.

New investment is defined in the rules to: "include a commitment or contribution of funds or other assets, and a loan or other extension of credit .."

Rescheduling of existing debt is only permitted if "no new funds or credits are thereby transferred or extended" to an SA borrower, says a Johannesburg source.

"U.S. companies can no longer use their foreign affiliates outside South Africa to get round the ban, nor may they knowingly act through or participate with another overseas party."

Exceptions include:

— Reinvestment of profit earned by a U.S.-controlled organisation in that or another SA entity.

— Contributions required to enable a U.S.-controlled SA organisation to operate in an economically sound manner, without expanding its operations.

— The ownership of control of an interest in a SA organisation, or of securities of the SA Government or an SA entity issued before October 2 this year.

— The transfer of aqcuisition of such a pre-October 2 interest or security where no payment, contribution of funds or assets, or credit to the entity or issuer results.

— Expenses to comply with the code of cunduct (Sullivan Principles) as mandated by the sanctions bill.

— Market rate sales of goods services and technology.

— The purchase of a residence for personal use by the purchasing U.S. national.

— Charitable contributions.

U.S. residents and companies may continue to hold and open bank accounts in SA, but such accounts may only be used "strictly to payfor and clear transactions."

It is reported that at a meeting with "business representatives on December 11, U.S. officials conceded the rules then being finalised left many specific questions unanswered and urged firms to seek guidance from the Treasury on a case-by-case basis."

BUSINESS DAY on Sanctions

MB291622 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 29 Dec 86 p 5

[By economics editor Gerald Prosalendis]

[Excerpts] Although attempts to unravel the impact of sanctions on SA's economy are riddled with unknowns, those imposed this year are so far having little effect.

But as the year draws to a close, some conclusions can be drawn.

Firstly, sanctions have not been the quick fix that many thought — so far they have failed to force a change of heart on government.

They have not brought the SA economy to its knees and are unlikely to dod so.

Rather, they have provided government with a means of deflecting moral responsibility for many of the ills of its own making onto the proponents of sanctions themselves.

Sanctions have also weakened Western, and particularly US, influence in South Africa.

In addition, there are broader issues which have been raised by the sanctions campaign against SA. US and UK bankers have been seen to capitulate to political pressure. [passage omitted]

Also, by cutting SA — a large trader and supplier of raw materials — out of legitimate world markets, opportunities for arbitrage proliferate.

International trade with SA is being driven into a nether world of black market dealing where statistics are unreliable and control impossible.

And where there is demand, there will be supply.

It was in late September and early October that a broad range of mandatory sanctions was finally imposed on SA. [passage omitted.

But it was the US sanctions package, which came into force in mid-November, that took mandatory sanctions against SA a step further. [passage omitted]

Although serious, it is estimated these measures will result in a 5 percent drop in export earnings for SA.

But, many of the recent sanctions have merely written into law what already exists.

For example, the US ban on new investment in SA, and loans to the SA government and agencies controlled by it, has been a fact of life for some time.

Foreign banks — and not just those in the US — have been withdrawing, rather than investing capital from SA for nearly two years.

A local banker says: "No US loans or investment have flowed into SA because bankers and companies feel the risk is too high, and it is unlikely that they will change their minds soon."

But, it is these "financial sanctions," rather than trade sanctions, which have done damage to the SA economy, and jeopardised chances for long-term growth.

The pressure they have exerted on the capital account has resulted in a lower exchange rate, higher inflation and a lower rate of real economic growth. And while the capital outflow continues, SA will have little choice but to run a large surplus on the current account, forcing the monetary authorities to apply a more restrictive monetary and fiscal policy than they would otherwise have done.

Far from being an excuse for fiscal excess and a permissive monetary policy, then, sanctions will discipline SA's economy.

One of the real threats of sanctions to SA's economy, and an already over-regulated free market system, is inherent in government's response to sanctions. Should government perceive sanctions merely as an opportunity to increase its control over the economy, and be misled into believing that interest rates can be kept low, the exchange rate high and growth increased merely by bureaucratic decree, the results could be disastrous.

Yes, the need to trade in a hostile world will make it necessary for international relationships to be concealed, statistics hidden and trading partners obscured. But this should not be confused with those calling for blanket controls both on information and economic activity.

So far, the monetary authorities have reacted with circumspection. Finance Director General Chris Stals says: "Careful management of the economy is essential. In future we will be unable to afford unnecessary expenditure in both the public and private sector.

"Sanctions make it important that we determine spending priorities and get it moving in these directions.

Police Detain BUSINESS DAY Reporter 29 Dec
MB291532 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1528 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 29, SAPA — *Business Day* reporter Sipho Ngcobo has been detained under Section 29 of Internal Security Act, the newspaper's acting editor, Mr Mike Acott, said today.

Mr Acott told SAPA Ngcobo was picked up from the newspaper's office this afternoon by two plainchothes policemen. No reason was given for his arrest.

"They asked to interview him. I told them they could do so in my presence. Then they searched his desk and informed him he was being detained," Mr Acott said.

The newspaper's lawyers today petitioned the commissioner of police for the release of the 32 year-old journalist.

Ngcobo has recently carried out investigations into township life and given accounts of street committees and "people's courts."

[SAPA prefaces this item with the following warning: "Attention editors: This item may contravene the emergency regulations if published or broadcast. We have sent a copy to the IPLC [Interdepartmental Press Liaison Center] for clearance."]

BUSINESS DAY Protests Arrest

MB300713 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0656 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg Dec 30 SAPA — The detention of *Business Day* reporter Sipho Ngcobo would cut off another source of information about South African politics and plunge whites into even deeper ignorance, the paper said in a front-page editorial today. It said Ngcobo's reporting on township politics had given readers "a unique and illuminated view of township affairs." "His detention puts out their eyes and increases their uncertainty."

Ngcobo 32, was detained by security policemen at the newspaper's Johannesburg offices yesterday. He was taken to John Vorster Square after his desk, notebooks and personal effects were searched and several documents confiscated.

Business Day lawyers were not allowed to speak to the reporter.

The managing director of South African Associated Newspapers [SAAN], Mr Stephen Mulholland, said Ngcobo should be released immediately or charged. The reporter's inability to communicate with his lawyers or family added a "nightmarish dimension" to an already distasteful matter and SAAN would do all it could to help Ngcobo and his family, Mr Mulholland said. "The whole matter is disturbing in the extreme in the sense that Ngcobo's reporting of township matters... could now be severely circumscribed and his credibility, not to say his own personal safety, put at risk. There is already ample evidence that the public is uneasy over the lack of credible information as to what is taking place in the country.... The seizure of an able reporter such as Ngcobo further erodes the credibility of the press and therefore damages the interests of the country," Mr Mulholland said.

In its editorial, *Business Day* said it was impossible to say whether Ngcobo's detention had anything to do with the state of emergency. "Section 29 existed before the emergency and detentions under that clause are as likely to be a cause of the emergency as a consequence of it. Earlier detentions under Section 29 failed to avert the emergency and Ngcobo's detention will surely not end it. ...As is usual in these cases, we demand that the authorities bring Ngcobo to trial or release him to go lawfully about his business.

"We have not the faintest illusion that our demand will be heeded. SA groans under a government that has abandoned the tenets of justice as it has violated the procedures of democracy. In making a formal demand for trial or release, therefore, we simply restate a principle of good government that can be restored in SA only by the defeat of an oppressive and increasingly totalitarian party. Ngcobo's arrest is but one more reason among thousands for all democratic South Africans to come together in a determined campaign to end the long dark night of nationalist misrule."

DET Explains Need for New School Regulations

MB291341 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1340 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 29, SAPA — The Department of Education and Training [DET] has said the new wide-ranging emergency regulations promulgated today in a special government gazette were aimed at creating conditions for "uninterrupted and meaningful education."

"It is the undeniable right of every parent to insist upon uninterrupted and meaningful education for his child, also the right of every child to enjoy the necessary protection in order to make full use of education opportunities," said DET's acting director-general, Mr J.L.C. Strydom, in a statement issued by the Bureau for Information.

"There is incontrovertible evidence to prove that the vast majority of parents and pupils place a high premium on education and are anxious that calm and good discipline be maintained at schools. It cannot be allowed that pupils be prevented from attending school, writing important examinations or that they be molested or physically harmed in any way."

He said an important responsibility of all principals, teachers and other officials was, in conjunction with parents, to prevent the intimidation of innocent pupils or their misuse by outsiders for selfish political purposes, and to ensure that the normal business of any school was not disrupted or disturbed.

"In order to exercise this responsibility, it has become necessary to issue regulations according to the Public Safety Act (1953) today. These regulations make provision for the issuing of orders by the director general of education and training to create a healthy climate in all schools for the presentation of effective and uninterrupted education," he said.

Mr Strydom said any orders or instructions that might possibly be issued in terms of these emergency regulations would be aimed at promoting education and would be primarily in the interest of pupils and parents.

Saying the past years had seen a host of major improvements in education of blacks and the elimination of grievances, he added: "1987 can justifiably, therefore, be looked forward to as a year in which uninterrupted, effective education can be offered with the full cooperation of parents in the interest of the future of every individual pupil."

UDF Endorses Back-To-School Call

MB291554 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1544 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 29, SAPA — The United Democratic Front today endorsed an appeal by parent and student groups that students across the country return to school next year.

Although the detention of students and "intransigent attitude" of the DET [Department of Education and Training] hindered a return to normality in the schools, the UDF believed that "wher-

ever and whenever possible students have to be at school all the time," Mr Murphy Morobe, acting publicity secretary for the UDF, said in a press statement.

"The extent to which this will be the case in 1987 will, like in 1986, depend on the way the DET and other departments like law and order will be dealing with well-known demands of parents on the whole education issue."

A return-to-class would help the struggle for a democratic education system in long term and did not mean "students and the black community are prepared to swallow anything that comes from Pretoria," Mr Morobe said.

NECC Supports Back-To-School Call

MB291557 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1549 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 29, SAPA — The National Education Crisis Committee [NECC] today endorsed calls by parent and student groups for black students across the country to return to school next year.

"Throughout South Africa, students, parents and teachers have made it clear that there will return to school in January 1987. The NECC, on the basis of wide consensus amongst our constituencies, hereby endorses that call," the organisation's spokesman, Mr Eric Molobi, said in a press statement.

Mr Molobi said the government's closure of schools and refusal to negotiate on educational issues would not help the return to school.

"The most sensible beginning for 1987 is for the DET to reopen all schools and allow our children to receive an education," he said.

Black Exam Passing Rate Higher Than Reported

MB300900 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] The South African Department of Education and Training said the pass rate for black matriculants this year was almost 52 percent and not 39 percent as previously reported. The statement said just over 13 percent gained the university entrance. The department said this compared favourably with the pass rate of just over 49 percent in 1985. The improvement of almost 3 percent was an indication of better education and a growing resistance to intimidation, disruption, and senseless stayaway actions in black schools.

Police Discover Hungarian-Made Rifles

MB291528 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1522 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 29, SAPA — Municipal workers today discovered an arms cache containing two AMD-65 rifles, Hungarian versions of the familiar AK-47 weapon made in the Soviet bloc countries, and ammunition on Observatory Koppie [small hill] near Johannesburg, police spokesman Lt Pierre Louw said.

Workers clearing a trail discovered an oblong box hidden in undergrowth.

Lt Louw, from John Vorster Square, said six loaded magazines were found with the rifles.

Police are investigating.

Cape Beach Restores 'Whites Only' Rule

MB300727 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0714 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Cape Town Dec 30 SAPA — Beach apartheid has returned to Gordon's Bay with the eviction of several Indian and coloured holiday-makers from Bikini Beach where officials yesterday added a "Whites Only" sign to notices prohibiting dogs and fires.

One source said that on Sunday there had been heated verbal exchanges between a group of coloured people and white residents, and officials had asked an Indian family to leave. A Gordon's Bay curio shop and restaurant owner, Mr Basil du Toit, said officials told him yesterday they wanted to remove access steps to Bikini Beach "to cut down on the numbers of coloureds going on to the beach." The officials returned later and attached a "Whites Only/Slegs Blankes" board to a pole carrying signs prohibiting dogs and fires.

The deputy town clerk of Gordon's Bay, Mr Chris Neethling, said the sign was re-erected becuase of recent "problems" on the beach. He declined to elaborate. But he did say there had been an incident at Bikini Beach some three weeks ago. "A group of coloured people arrived in their underpants... when they start playing games, everything hangs out, you know," he said. He also confirmed that a group of Indian holiday-makers were recently evicted from the beach. "There was no Amanzimtoti here," Mr Neethling said, referring to the violence on Natal Beaches at the weekend.

Information Bureau Issues Unrest Report

MB301258 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1257 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 30, SAPA — Following is the daily unrest report issued by the Bureau for Information:

"Unrest report 00h01 to 24h00 (29 December)

"A group of coloureds threw a petrol bomb at a cold drink delivery vehicle in Kleinskool (Port Elizabeth) yesterday. Three coloured men inside the vehicle were slightly injured and extensive damage was caused to the vehicle. No arrests have thus far been made.

"A shot was fired at security force members by a group of four black men in Katlehong (Germiston) yesterday. The security forces returned fire and one man was wounded in the leg.

"A mob of about 20 riotous black youths stoned a bus in Indunduma (Pinetown) yesterday slightly injuring the driver. Thus far no arrests have been made."

End report

Press Comments on Current Problems, Issues

MB300629 [Editorial report]

CITIZEN Criticizes Press Curbs

Under the new media restrictions, newspapers "suffer grievously in carrying out their normal functions, having virtually to abandon reporting of unrest or unrest-related matters for fear of breaching the regulations," Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 29 December says in a page 6 editorial. "Little gets into the newspapers about these topics. As a result, people are left to wonder what is going on." Furthermore, although the press restrictions may silence "the UDF and other radical groups," this "does not mean that the underlying grievances of Blacks are resolved."

STAR on Gold, Taxes

Gold "has come to the rescue of the economy; or, more accurately, has kicked up a large enough cloud of gold dust to obscure for the moment the crucial weaknesses in it," Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 29 December says in a page 14 editorial. In the past, increases in teh price of gold "have been dissipated trying to prove that unworkable policies could be made to work if only enough money were thrown at them. One consequence has been to turn South Africa into a grotesquely overtaxed country which extracts from its citizens, in the name of free marketry, most of the penalties of socialism with few if any of the advantages. There is hardly a democratic country in the Western world that offers its citizens so little in the way of social benefits for so much in the way of tax."

BUSINESS DAY: Government 'Bankrupt'

The South African Government has "lost the initiative" and "has become reactionary. There are no new ideas from government, no new approaches; simply responses, usually knee-jerk, to whatever events present themselves," Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 29 December says in a page 4 editorial. "Truth is that power is slipping through the government's fingers. It is losing the ability to govern the country for the very simple reason that the majority of this nation's people are no longer prepared to be governed by it. Indeed, more and more they indicate their willingness to defy it. We can no longer expect solutions from an order that is manifestly bankrupt: morally, intellectually and politically. Instead, every individual must by himself take that first tenetative step into the new world, for the solution truly lies with the people of this country."

BUSINESS DAY on 'Irony' in Sanctions

"There is a certain irony in the sight of U.S. legislators, all of whom voted for sanctions on SA, lobbying President Reagan to exclude their constituents from the effects of those sanctions," *Business Day* says ain a second editorial on the same page. However, even if the six senators who now worry about the effects of the ban of South African uranium on jobs had relied on "reason and logic" rather than "emotion and rhetoric" when voting on the sanctions issue, "the intransigence of Pretoria meant ultimately that a vote against sanctions was a vote for racism. At the same time, it is novel for South Africans, used to a government unresponsive to the will of the people, to see legislators in action who are truly answerable to their voters."

SOWETAN on Durban Beach Clashes

"The ugly race fights at Durban beaches over the festive season do not come as too much of a surprise, as it will take time before attitudes caused by the apartheid system of separate beaches sort themselves out," Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 29 December says in a page 6 editorial. "Race feelings of suspicion and often anger are easily sparked, especially when it is as intimate a facility as the beach. It is the tragedy of South Africa that something that should have been enjoyed by all its people in an open friendly fashion degenerates into such ugly fighting. The world must regard us as a very strange species, although race confrontation is not confined to this country. It is the heritage of a separateness that we have to outlive, something that will no doubt disappear when the country assumes normal civilised standards of behaviour."

BEELD on Beach Racial Disturbances

Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 29 December, in a page 10 editorial, notes that "it is unfortunate that the festive season has been marred by racial disturbances at the Amanzimtoti beach." The incident reveals that racial feelings lie very near the surface in South Africa. South Africa "is the world's test tube as far as race relations are concerned." The ultimate goal for South Africa ia a community in which all races can work and play peacefully. Amanzimtoti has shown how far South Africa is from this goal.

Commentary Condemns 'Inhumanity' in Zambia

MB300545 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] Kenneth David Kaunda is, after Dr Banda of Malawi, the longest serving head of state in southern Africa. He is, as well, the chairman of the group of southern African states in the forefront of the vendetta against South Africa. But his personal record of leadership is a sorry one.

In 22 years as president, Kaunda has plunged a potentially prosperous country into bankruptcy. Socialist policies, such as the establishment of state farms, have ruined rich agricultural potential; economic policies have favored the urban privileged minority and accentuated rural underdevelopment. The gap has progressively widened between the urban rich and the poor masses, whether they live in the impoverished and neglected rural areas or in urban slums. Malnutrition, unemployment and death from diseases ranging from measles to malaria are widespread.

So grave is the state of the Zambian economy that when the International Monetary Fund was — not for the first time — called in to mount a rescue operation it ordered drastic action that had the effect of more than doubling the price of maize, a staple food. Bloody riots erupted and cost the lives of at least 15 people.

As the social and economic situation in Zambia has become progressively worse, the Kaunda regime has become increasingly despotic and repressive. Zambia has had a state of emergency for 22 years — and many thousands of Zambians have been thrown into prison in terms of emergency regulations. Just how inhumane and cruel the Kaunda regime has become has been highlighted by Mr John Edlin, a foreign correspondent who has worked in Africa for more than 20 years. Last week, Mr Edlin spent five days in what he described as a medieval prison. The conditions in this Zambian prison, he reported, were appalling, with overcrowding, unhygenic conditions and deplorable food. In one cell were 18 children between the ages of 7 and 14 who were subjected to rape by their guards.

Mr Edlin's report serves to confirm the experiences reported by other victims of official brutality in Zambia: the Austrian woman who was stripped naked, physically assaulted and questioned for hours by teams of policemen; the two Germans who, with a British companion, were imprisoned for a month and physically and psychologically tortured; the three British students who were maltreated in a Zambian jail; and many more. One can but shudder in horror at the thought of the fate of thousands of Zambians who have fallen foul of the Kaunda regime and whose story — unlike that of foreign citizens — will never reach the outside world.

Kenneth Kaunda weeps often in public when describing conditions elsewhere. But in his own Zambia he is erecting one of the many monuments in Africa to man's inhumanity to man in the 20th century.

ZAMBIA

Military Seals Township To Recover Looted Goods

MB291923 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 29 Dec 86

[Text] Military personnel today sealed off (Bulinguililo) township in an intensified operation clean-up to recover property looted during recent riots over increased prices of mealie meal. Hundreds of workers from the Kitwe township failed to get to work today as all entrances to the area were sealed off at dawn and no traffic could either enter or leave the township. Provincial police chief Darius Kalebo could not be reached for details on how many people had been rounded up or on what property recovered. (Bulinguililo), a site and service settlement, is mostly inhabited by aliens believed to be involved in shady deeds.

Official Denies Youth Group Used for Security

MB300729 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 30 Dec 86

[Text] A top army officer has dispelled fears amongst some Zambians that the proposed Zambian Union of Young Pioneers, ZUP, will be a clandestine security network to be used against them by the party and its government. Colonel Eric Wanduma from army headquarters said this in a paper presented to the ongoing Young Pioneers workshop at the President's Citizenship College in Kabwe. Colonel Wanduma said that such unfounded fears were based on reports that some countries, which he did not name, were using Young Pioneers as seuciry networks. He said the party felt that the young must be trained in security awareness to make them politically and ideologically prepared to play a leading role as future leaders instead of leaving them ignorant of their future roles.